

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

AUGUST 6, 2003

TERRY D. DENMON
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
AUGUST 6, 2003

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 6, 2003

Chairman Terry Denmon presiding.

Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Henry Mouton
Wayne Sagrera
Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Bill Busbice was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **July 8, 2003 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Mouton and seconded by Commissioner Stone. The motion passed with no opposition.

Under **Commission Special Announcements**, Commissioner Mouton read a letter addressed to the members of the Commission and Secretary Jenkins. The letter spoke of the recent loss of the Plum Creek WMA and Commissioner Mouton's attempt to contact other possible landowners and the chance they may lease their land for public hunting. However with a lawsuit filed by Louisiana Wildlife Federation and Senator Joe McPherson on the White Lake Donation and the lawsuits on the Maurepas WMA camps, those landowners decided not to allow the Department to use their lands. Commissioner Mouton also explained how these lawsuits have caused the cessation of an ecotourist center on the White Lake property as well as the public use of the area and any future chances of utilizing free land.

Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition began with Lt. Col. Charlie Clark introducing Ms. Doris Copeland, Mr. Brett Beoubay and Mr. Henry Rayborn with ORM. Ms. Copeland stated each year the Office of Risk Management presents a heroic award to a state agency or state employee that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to save a life. Awards would be presented to two employees within the Enforcement Division. She then explained the happenings that occurred in the afternoon of January 8, 2002, when Region 8 Enforcement received a call about a missing man in the Biloxi WMA. Lt. Brian Clark and Pilot Gene Rackle responded to the call and were successful in locating and rescuing the man. Ms. Copeland then commented that Lt. Clark and

Pilot Rackle exhibited bravery to save a life and competence greatly exceeding normal job demands. She then presented the Risk Management Heroic Award to Pilot Gene Rackle and Lt. Col. Clark on behalf of Lt. Brian Clark. Chairman Denmon commended the gentlemen on behalf of the Commission.

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for July was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during July.

Region I - Minden - 109 citations and 4 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 95 citations and 14 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 123 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 157 citations and 18 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 198 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 237 citations and 79 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 198 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 351 citations and 34 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 238 citations and 25 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 33 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 17 citations.

SWEP - 12 citations and 4 warnings.

Refuge Patrol - 53 citations and 5 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of July was 1,706. Also 192 warning citations were issued and agents helped in 71 public assistance statewide.

The aviation report for June 2003 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 46.6 hours for enforcement and 17.0 hours for other divisions. Five citations were issued. Then Major LaCaze stated he provided copies of several news releases on a variety of items the division worked on during July. These included a baited dove case, taking oysters from a polluted area, undersized black bass from Henderson Bay and Grand Isle shrimping activities during closed season.

Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns was handled by Mr. Danny Timmer since Mr. Paul

Farrell, Regional Director, nor the State President could attend the meeting. The Turkey Federation is comprised of approximately 4,000 members in the State which conducts about 48 fund raising banquets each year. About \$150,000 to \$200,000 is raised from these banquets which are then deposited into the Louisiana Superfund Account. This money can only be spent in Louisiana; and of this money, a large portion is spent on the WMAs as well as U.S. Forest Service properties. Mr. Timmer acknowledged that the Turkey Federation has been a great friend to this Department. One such project they have helped with was the Voluntary Check Stations where hunters that kill a turkey report their kill. To encourage this participation, the Federation donates 3 shotguns for public drawing. This year's shotguns will be Remington 870's, 3 1/2-inch super magnums. The winners from this year's drawing are: Mr. Nolan Bounds from Washington Parish that shot an 18 pound turkey with 9 3/4 inch beard; Mr. Clint Stephenson from Dubuc, killed a turkey in Lincoln Parish weighing 19 1/2-pound turkey with 9 1/4 inch beard; and Mr. David Dillon from Angie whose turkey weighed 17 pounds with 9 1/4 inch beard. Mr. Timmer thought this would be the last year for this program and he expressed the Commission's appreciation for their time.

A Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons was presented by Mr. Robert Helm. The results from the previous season showed harvest was down 31 percent at about 820,000 total ducks and was the first time since 1995 that at least a million ducks were not harvested in Louisiana. This resulted in Louisiana ranking third in the Mississippi Flyway Council behind Arkansas and Minnesota and fifth in the U.S. In the Mississippi Flyway as a whole, harvest was down 10 percent last year. Northern states, such as Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, had a good season last year. Mr. Helm then noted a series of public hearings were held to address hunters' concerns in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited and Fish & Wildlife Service showing the possible scenario for the last several seasons. He then stated last year's season was a thing of the past and that there may be better things ahead. The prairie pothole region had some late winter and spring snows that turned around a pretty poor prediction for this area. At this point, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service video on ducks and geese was shown. Mr. Helm recapped there was overall good news for ducks and geese from the breeding grounds. From the Mississippi Flyway Council Meeting, a recommendation for a 60 day season with 6 bird bag came about. But within that 60 day season, there will be a 30 day pintail and canvasback season. Mr. Helm recommended that they should be cautiously optimistic when talking to hunters for this upcoming season. He then reminded the Commission they changed the zone line 3 years ago putting all of the coastal marshes in the west zone. The recommendation for ducks and coots in the West Zone will be November 8 - November 30 and reopen on December 13 - January 18. The East Zone would be November 15 - November 30 and reopen on December 13 - January 25. For the pintail season, staff was

suggesting the first 30 days in each split followed by a canvasback season in the last 30 days. For pintail in the West Zone, those dates would be November 8 - November 30 and December 13 - December 19; for the East Zone, the season would be November 15 - November 30 and December 13 - December 26. West Zone dates for canvasbacks would be December 20 - January 18; whereas the East Zone would have the dates of December 27 - January 25. The youth waterfowl dates will be the weekend prior to the opening of the duck season in each zone, November 1-2 in the West Zone and November 8-9 in the East Zone. Daily bag limits will be the same as last year. For the goose season, the recommendation was for a statewide light geese and white-fronted geese season with the dates of November 1 - November 30 and December 13 - February 6. The Canada Goose season would run for 9 days from January 17 - January 25. The Conservation Order for light geese would allow for a 12 day season from December 1 - December 12 followed by the second split running from February 7 - March 7. The second split for rails and gallinules would open on November 8 - December 31.

Commissioner Mouton stated the comments he has received in the East Zone were to open the first split as late as possible such as November 22 - December 7 and then to change the other dates to get the full 60 day season. Chairman Denmon stated the calls he has received want to back the second half up a week since they felt the birds were more vulnerable to the gun in December rather than January. He added he has not received any calls from West Zone hunters. Commissioner Sagrera commented a problem with both recommendations was it interfered with the Conservation Order for geese. He then noted all of the calls he has received from the East Zone hunters indicated they wanted to go to January 25, the end of the season. Chairman Denmon asked if the Conservation Order could be changed? Mr. Helm stated when one season change occurs, this has a domino effect on the others. Commissioner Felterman stated all of the comments he has received are in line with those presented. Chairman Denmon stated he has seen better duck hunting in north Louisiana in December and early January rather than late January. Mr. Helm stated the traditional closing has been the Sunday closest to January 20 but now Louisiana is in the middle of an experiment of hunting later in January and allowing the northern states to open in October. All decisions for the seasons are weather dependent. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Chairman Denmon then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Neil Mott from Oak Ridge, stated he was part of a group that talked to 55 hunters in northeast Louisiana and there were a lot of variations among those hunters. But he stated no one wants to go to the end of January since they do not kill birds in late January.

Mr. Warren Coco stated he was in favor of going with Mr. Helm's recommendation. He also suggested waiting to see what happens with the 3 year experiment of going to the end of January. Mr. Coco noted going to the 30th or 31st of January was too late.

Mr. Jerry Hightower, an avid hunter for 62 years, assured the Commission that more ducks would be killed in November and December than in January. He recommended cutting the last days off of the season and move them into December.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Denmon made a substitute motion to move the second split in the East Zone to run from December 6 - December 18. Mr. Helm stated the Conservation Order could be split by the zones and still have the 12 days in the West Zone. Mr. Tommy Prickett asked the Commission to proceed and give staff a few minutes to work out the details. There was no second to the Chairman's motion. Going back to the original motion, Chairman Denmon asked Mr. Helm to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. The motion passed with opposition from Chairman Denmon.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 2003

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington DC, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt

the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours,
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 2003-2004 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

A Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA was the first of three items presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. He began stating there is a WMA in Tangipahoa Parish called Sandy Hollow with a number of school board sections nearby. The Department approached the Tangipahoa Parish School Board and asked them if they would like to leave them open to the public as a WMA and they have agreed to do that. This action would promulgate 2 tracts to be designated the Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA. Hopefully within the next month an additional tract would be added. Mr. Prickett asked the Commission to establish the 2 tracts, which totaled 994 acres, as a WMA. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Felterman and approved with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is
made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has entered into a ten-year lease agreement with the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, for certain tracts or

parcels of land situated in the parish of Tangipahoa, consisting of approximately 994 acres, and more specifically described in Attachment A and locally known as the Husser Tract (647.12 acres) and Loranger Tract (346.89 acres).

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable wildlife habitat, the protection and proper management of which is important to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area to be called the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the land described above, comprised of 994 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, bird watching, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of establishing the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area, including securing and signing all legal documents.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Attachment A.

Certain tracts or parcels of land within Tangipahoa Parish, more particularly described as:

346.89 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 8 E; and
647.12 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 9 E.

A Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA was the next item handled by Mr. Tommy Prickett. This action will set hunting seasons on the Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA. Deer season will be the same as outside except still hunting only; all small game will be the same as outside except beagles will be permitted January 26-February 29 for rabbit; squirrel dogs will be permitted January 26 - February 8; and raccoon hunting at nighttime will be allowed January 26 - February 29. Also he noted there would be no ATVs allowed and the area would be walk-in only. Mr. Prickett asked for a voice vote to promulgate the regulations and to include them in the hunting pamphlet. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Felterman made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

2003-2004 Hunting Regulations

Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area (Region 7): (Loranger Tract: 346.89 acres) and (Husser Tract: 647.12 acres)

Self-Clearing Permits Required.

Deer: Same as outside except still hunt only.

Small Game: Same as outside except beagles permitted January 26-February 29; squirrel dogs permitted January 26-February 8

Raccoon (Nighttime): January 26-February 29

No ATVs. Walk-in only.

Horseback Riding: Organized trail rides prohibited. Riding allowed only on designated roads and trails. Horses and mules are specifically prohibited during turkey and gun seasons for deer.

Contact Wildlife Division, Region 7 for maps and specific information.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to establish the hunting season for Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area. A lease agreement was recently completed on the tracts and as such was not included with the original Notice of Intent.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The last item by Mr. Tommy Prickett was a **Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248**. During the recent Legislative Session, action was taken to establish a bobcat season by the Department. Prior to 1978, bobcats and foxes were an outlawed quadruped, which allowed them to be hunted 365 days a year with no bag limit. In 1978, the bobcat was designated a fur animal and the recreational take was suspended. Staff examined the historical information on the harvest of bobcats prior to 1978, the trapping data from the past 30 years and what the adjoining states allow. Mr. Prickett recommended that hunters be allowed to take one bobcat during the open deer season. Scent post surveys were conducted when there was a high bobcat harvest and there was no significant change in the visitation of bobcats except in the Florida parishes. Since these surveys were suspended, there have been significant changes in bobcat habitat. Bobcat populations are dependent upon prey species and the best habitat in Louisiana are bottomland hardwoods. Mr. Prickett also recommended a season limit of one bobcat for properly licensed deer hunters during the open deer season. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then asked for public comments.

Mr. Beau Gast, Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association, stated they take in all of the injured or orphaned wildlife in the state. He noted his Association is against the proposal with their being no biological data to back up the bobcat in this state. The information given by Mr. Prickett is anecdotal and inconsistent trapping data. The rehabilitators in Louisiana have only taken in four bobcats over the last 10 years. Mr. Gast felt this action was not legal as it related to the Administrative Procedure Act. Another concern by the Association was there is no bobcat management plan in place. Mr. Gast felt there would be an increase in the numbers of bobcats brought to wildlife rehabilitators, which are very expensive to rehabilitate. One other problem was a dead carcass may be left behind since most people do not eat the meat of bobcats. He asked that accurate biological data be obtained and have a management plan in place before starting a bobcat season. Mr. Gast then read several comments he received by e-mail opposing the bobcat season.

Mr. Jeff Dorson, Humane Society of Louisiana, also stated they are against the proposed regulation since there is no scientific data to support opening a season. He then went over the process the bill went through during the legislative session. On the House side, it was introduced and passed out of Committee and the House Floor without much discussion. There was an open debate in the Senate Committee passing with a vote of four to two due to there being no statistical data on population density. Senator Butch Gautreaux voiced those concerns on the Senate Floor and it was returned to the Calendar twice since it did not have the votes to pass. The bill did pass with an amendment and this caused a House Conference Committee and the fox provision was dropped. Mr. Dorson stated the Society was in favor of a moratorium until data is available.

Dr. Mike Chamberlain, LSU Professor, stated he did his doctoral research on bobcats. He did not think the previous gentlemen were right in that there has been no quantitative scientifically based research project conducted in Louisiana in the past few years to justify a harvest rate. But, he noted, there is a considerable knowledge and literature base in surrounding states that documents survival rates of adult and juvenile bobcats. The harvest limit is quite conservative compared to Mississippi having an open season with no bag limit. Dr. Chamberlain felt most hunters would not shoot a bobcat as this would destroy their deer hunt for that day. With the type of season recommended, there may be a total harvest of 3,000 to 4,000 per year.

Mr. Prickett added to Dr. Chamberlain's comments that they looked at what the adjoining states' regulations are and Louisiana has half of the woodland acres that Mississippi has. Staff has calculated the bobcat harvest may be about 2,000 in this state. Commissioner Sagrera felt the concept that 250,000 hunters would kill 250,000 bobcats goes from one extreme to another. From the comments he has received especially from southwestern marsh areas which are not bobcat habitat, there have been more sightings of these animals and he supported the Department's recommendation thinking it was quite conservative. Commissioner Kelly noted that when the animals were outlawed, no great numbers of bobcats were killed at that time. So he felt the proposal would not wipe out the bobcat population. Chairman Denmon stated the recommendation by the Department is pretty restrictive. Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of
Emergency is made a part of the
record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and Act 1248 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule.

Properly licensed big game hunters may take a bobcat during the open deer hunting season. The season limit on bobcats taken by recreational deer hunters shall be one. Legal shooting hours and methods of take shall be the same as those for deer in each area of the state.

This rule shall take effect on September 13, 2003 which coincides with the opening of the 2003 archery season.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season** and none were made.

Mr. Greg Linscombe handled the next item, a **Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003-2004 Trapping Season**. Trapping licenses almost doubled from a year ago to about 1,600 this year due largely to the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. Comparative take was up 289,000 animals which was also directly related to the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. Total value of the harvest was \$1.5 million to the trappers. Nutria harvest was 308,160 and the average for the three years before that was 20,000-25,000 per year. The average price paid went down to \$1.40 but was supplemented by the \$4 per tail from the Control Program. In the program, there were 342 participants, representing 22 parishes, that turned in 300,000 tails and received \$1.2 million in incentive payments. Method of take was 63 percent shot with a rifle, 3 percent took the animals with a shotgun and 34 percent trapped the animals. February was the most active month for tail collections and December was the least active. Damage surveys flown in May showed 82,000 acres were impacted which is not significantly different but it would take two or three growing seasons to see if the program works and to see improvements. Mr. Linscombe did report an overall improvement in the condition of the damaged spots. The only other significant change in harvest was with the raccoon jumping from 6,000 to 11,000 even though there was a drop in prices. River otter has the most valuable pelt to trappers and this increased from 2,600 to almost 4,000 with pelt prices going from \$50 to \$59. Chairman Denmon asked Mr. Linscombe to read the **Therefore Be It Resolved** portion of the Resolution. Chairman Denmon asked what may trigger lengthening or shortening the season? Mr. Linscombe stated a request to extend may come from fur buyers when prices go up and the season would soon close. He also noted he could not remember ever closing a season before it was time.

Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

**2003-2004 Fur Trapping Season
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 2003**

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:259(A) authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of nongame quadrupeds and allows the Commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act allows the Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana has historically lead the nation in the production of wild fur with value to the trappers as high as \$24 million in some seasons, and
- WHEREAS, the harvest of this renewable resource is important in providing supplemental income to citizens of the state while furnishing an essential management tool to reduce nuisance wildlife problems, property damage, the impact of prey species, the incident of density dependent disease and provide a measure of population health and general condition, and
- WHEREAS, regulated trapping provides the only practical control of muskrat and nutria populations, an essential part of any effort to protect or enhance coastal wetlands. The role of such trapping cannot be overstated because of the rate of wetland loss and the impact that these wetland grazers are having in southeastern parishes, and
- WHEREAS, during the 2003-2004 trapping season the department will continue the Coastwide Nutria Control Program providing an incentive payment of \$4.00 per nutria tail to participants for up to 400,000 nutria with the objective of reducing damage to coastal wetlands, and

WHEREAS, the increased commercial harvest of beaver can play a major role in assisting in the reduction of damage to timber, agriculture, drainage, and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, historical and current information collected by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have indicated that the optimum time frame for the harvest of furbearers is between November and March each year, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the trapping season in any area of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003-2004 fur harvest season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:259(A) which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of non-game quadrupeds and allows the Commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year and in accordance with emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003 through March 31, 2004. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby also authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the adopted season.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season began with Mr. Marty Bourgeois stated Congress

appropriated \$8.7 million to assist Louisiana shrimp industries. The Governor has approved a plan which charges the Department with administering the funds. By the end of that day, approximately 6,000 applications would have been mailed explaining the source of the funds and a certification form. When all of the forms are returned, the money would then be distributed to the shrimpers. With respect to the fall inshore shrimp season, Mr. Bourgeois stated there are multiple size groups present in the current population. Also a full moon would occur on August 12 which would cause high tides. Considering these factors and the relatively short spring season in Zone 2, the Department recommended opening Zones 2 and 3 at official sunrise on Monday, August 11 and Zone 1 at official sunrise on Monday, August 18. Additionally, staff recommended closing Zones 2 and 3 at official sunset December 16 and in Zone 1 at official sunset December 31. The proposed rule would also give the Secretary authority to close the season if there is a need to do so and the authority to close or reopen outside waters if significant numbers of small shrimp appear. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the dates as presented. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then opened the discussion for public comment.

Mr. Marcel Reon, Zone 2, stated over the last three weeks shrimp have been moving out of Grand Isle pass. He suggested there should be a way to monitor the shrimp and open the season early when they are leaving. Mr. Bourgeois commented they have done different things this year such as Secretary Jenkins authorized an extension of the spring shrimp season in Zone 2 in a portion of Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays. But there was a problem with defining boundaries as well as enforcement problems.

Mr. John Brown, commercial fishermen from Zone 2, stated he was totally against the extension. Over the last 15 years, the land has eroded and this was causing the shrimp to leave the inside waters sooner. Mr. Brown also suggested opening the fall season earlier as well as the spring season. He then asked that maybe the meeting to set the season be held earlier next year. Mr. Bourgeois stated the consensus of the fishermen, dealers and processors he has talked to coastwide felt the spring season opened at the right time. As far as extensions, these areas are monitored very closely. Speaking again, Mr. John Brown, in his opinion, felt when you start seeing the white shrimp it is too late to close the season since they are very vulnerable.

Mr. Pete Gerica, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated the Department has done a fine job. What the previous gentleman was talking about was coastal erosion, commented Mr. Gerica. He added that there was a need for barriers to hold the water in. Also Mr. Gerica suggested micromanaging each part of the three zones.

Hearing no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2003 Fall Shrimp Season Opening
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to fix no less than two open shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides that shrimp season openings shall be based on biological and technical data which indicate that marketable shrimp, in sufficient quantities, are available for harvest, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal possession count on saltwater white shrimp shall average no more than 100 whole specimens to the pound (100 count per pound), except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by early August and white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zone 1 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by mid August, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with public notification provisions specified in R.S. 56:497, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby opens the 2003 fall shrimp season in inside waters in Shrimp Management Zone 1 at official sunrise August 18, 2003 and in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 at official sunrise August 11, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby fix the closing dates for the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in inside waters at official sunset December 16, 2003 in Zones 2 and 3, and official sunset December 31, 2003 in Zone 1, except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the

closing dates if biological or technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana state inside waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana waters to open as follows:

Shrimp Management Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the Mississippi-Louisiana State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at official sunrise August 18, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season in Zone 2 and Zone 3 at official sunset December 16, 2003, and Zone 1 at official sunset December 31, 2003 except in the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries to change the closing dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef was presented by Mrs. Karen Foote. An area in Little Lake in Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes no longer has oyster leases but there is an oyster resource. For someone to fish this resource, the Commission needed to establish it as an open ground. Mrs. Foote then asked that the area be established as a temporary natural reef. The area is less than 100 square miles of total bottoms. Within a year, Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion would be operating and at that time this resource would die. Mrs. Foote then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. She added that since this would be for a short term, the mitigation requirements have been exempted. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED TEMPORARY NATURAL REEF
August 6, 2003

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(12) provides that the Commission shall, through its Secretary, improve, enlarge, and protect the natural oyster reefs of this state as conditions may warrant, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Department may designate from which natural reefs oysters may be fished, and
- WHEREAS, oyster leases were purchased or relocated pursuant to R.S. 56:432.1 in a portion of Little Lake and nearby waterbottoms in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes, and
- WHEREAS, the waterbottoms in that portion of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes have been reported to contain oysters of harvestable size and quantity, and
- WHEREAS, due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, the oyster resource in

this area is in imminent peril of being irretrievably lost.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries establish a designated temporary natural reef in the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity - Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes in the area described in the attached Declaration of Emergency which is attached to and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, including but not limited to the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and in accordance with R.S. 56:6(12) and R.S. 56:433, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries declare and designate those waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes more specifically described below to be a designated temporary natural reef.

The oyster resource located on this designated reef may be irretrievably lost due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, which poses imminent peril to the welfare of the people of the state as a result of the permanent and irreplaceable loss of this natural resource and the resulting loss of economic benefit to the oyster industry. Inasmuch as the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion is anticipated to resume normal operations within 12 months, standard rulemaking procedures and timeframes would leave little, if any, time for an orderly and efficient harvest of this resource. Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do hereby declare the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche parishes as described below a designated temporary natural reef:

Beginning at the point on the western bank of the Barataria Waterway, latitude of 29° 34' 40" North, longitude 90° 03' 35.070" West; thence southerly along the western bank of the Barataria Waterway to a point, latitude 29° 30' 27.226" North, longitude 90° 01' 25.438" West; thence southwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 26' 37.361" North, longitude 90° 07' 26.119" West; thence northwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 28' 50.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence North to a point, latitude 29° 34' 40.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence East to the point of beginning.

All statutes, regulations, and policies pertaining to the use of public oyster grounds will be in force in this temporary natural reef with the exception of any additional mitigation requirements levied from time to time for construction, oil and gas exploration, or pipeline construction activities.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective on September 3, 2003, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until revocation by the Commission and the Department.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas began with Mr. Marty Bourgeois introducing Mr. Patrick Banks. Mr. Banks is the biologist that has worked very closely in the oyster management program and has compiled the annual stock assessment report. Chairman Denmon welcomed Mr. Banks and told him the floor was his. Mr. Banks went straight into stating the Department's recommendations for the 2003-04 oyster season on the public grounds. A copy of the stock assessment report, completed in July, was given to the Commissioners. Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and Little Lake Designated Temporary Natural Reef would open September 3, 2003 and close April 1, 2004; other areas east of the Mississippi River, Lake Borgne and the sacking only area and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation would open on September 10, 2003 and run through April 1, 2004; dates for the north end of Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation would be September 10, 2003 through September 16, 2003; Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation would open for seed only on September 10, 2003 and close September 21, 2003; and then for seed and sacking in Sister Lake, the season would run from September 22, 2003 through November 30, 2003; and the Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Area season would go from October 15, 2003 through April 30, 2004. Mr. Banks then read a portion of the Therefore Be It Resolved included on the Resolution. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Department's recommendations. Commissioner Feltermann seconded the motion. The Chairman then asked for public comments.

Mr. Dennis Pixton, member of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and oyster farmer and harvester, stated the Task Force asked that the Bay Gardene and Little Lake areas open on September 10 and that the Vermilion/Cote Blanche/Atchafalaya Bays area open on September 3. The concern with Bay Gardene was the fact it was the only primary area east of the River to open and it is such a small area. Also Mr. Pixton noted this area has not been favorable and has been infested with mussels in the past. He concluded by asking that the Task Force's recommendations be considered by the Commission.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr. stated he looked at the statement on opening Sister Lake for seed only and wanted to know why that could not be made into a seed and sack area. When 200 to 300 boats get in that area, there is no such thing as seed, the fishermen take everything that is on that area. What some boats do was they take the seed, move it and then a week later they will sack those oysters. Mr. Colletti then mentioned a Texas man was coming with 15 boats to move seed from the area and they are not even allowed to work the area. He then asked the Commission to help them and get the area open to seed and sacking. Mr. Banks stated the most boats counted on opening day in Sister Lake was 70 and staff feels the lake can handle this many boats. After the seed season, there will be an opportunity to sack oysters. The example spoken by Mr. Colletti does occur and enforcement will try to curb this as much as possible. Staff feels, based on the stock assessment, the seed season in Sister Lake will benefit the resource. In response to Mr. Pixton's comments on Bay Gardene, Mr. Banks noted this is a small area but there was a need for these reefs to be worked by dredges in order to help that resource. Also, since Bay Gardene is a seed reservation, they are trying to push the industry to use the area to bring up seeds to be place on their grounds.

Mr. Angelev Collins stated what Mr. Banks just said about working the reefs would benefit only certain people. At least 60 percent of the oysters in Houma area could be picked up and sold that day.

Mr. Travis Simon, an oystercfisherman, stated he agreed with what Mr. Collins and Mr. Colletti said. If the reefs are opened for seed oysters, those big boats will come in and take all of the seed oysters and put them on their bedding grounds. When those boats finish working the area, Mr. Simon felt there would not even be enough oysters to eat.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr., commented that the only thing that will be sacked after the seed only season would be dirt, mud and gravel. He felt there would not just be 70 boats in Sister Lake, but rather 100-125 boats and 50-75 of those would be from Texas. When an area is opened in his area, it will take 3-4 years to get it back to its original shape once the Texas boats get finished. Mr. Colletti then talked about the labor on the Texas boats being all Mexicans.

He again asked that they be allowed to go into the area and sack the oysters.

Mr. Travis Simon stated he used to get \$2 to \$3 a sack for the oysters when he worked as a deckhand. Now the Texas boats are paying the Mexicans 75 cents to a \$1 per sack. Mr. Simon also asked the Commission to help them.

Commissioner Sagrera asked if there are any restrictions on out-of-state boaters harvesting seed in Louisiana waters or the amount they can take? Mr. Banks stated they would need an out-of-state license but are not limited on the amount they can take. Commissioner Felterman asked if the Sister Lake area was opened for sacking, would it create a biological problem? Mr. Banks felt their concern may be in overharvesting the resource. Comments also received were that the area was opened too early for sacking while having a later opening would produce a better yield. The resource in the Lake can handle a compromise opening earlier for seeds and later to have a better yield. Also noted by Mr. Banks was the Resolution authorizes the Secretary to open and close areas as data determines. Even with Sister Lake not opening for sacking until September 22, there were other areas that could be worked before that time. Chairman Denmon asked if the Department has a way to determine the number of out-of-state versus in-state boats that are working an area? Mr. Banks explained that during a season, staff goes and make boarding reports and can make it available to the Commission. Chairman Denmon noted the out-of-state boaters maybe an issue that should be looked into. Commissioner Sagrera also suggested finding a legal way to maintain control of the resource for local fishermen. Mr. Banks knew the only control available now was the increased cost for an out-of-state license. Commissioner Felterman asked what happens to seed oysters during sack season? Mr. Banks stated those seed oysters less than 3 inches would be culled and placed back on the reef.

Mr. Angelev Collins stated the fishermen are taking the seed oysters and putting them on their own reefs.

Mr. Patrick Collins commented the north side of Bay Junop has no oysters, there was a reef there maybe as big as the Louisiana Room. After the fishermen take seed from Sister Lake for 12 days, the only oyster left would be the undersized oysters for which they would be ticketed.

Commissioner Kelly asked what are the percentages on the reefs for seed versus harvestable sack oysters? Mr. Banks quoting from the stock assessment report showed seed was up in Sister Lake compared to last year but sack availability from last year was down from the previous year. The ratio for this year was a little better than 1:1 sack to seed. Commissioner Kelly asked if a fisherman was sacking oysters, would he be allowed to have seed oyster on his boat as well? Mr. Banks stated there is a 3 inch

minimum size for sack oysters. Commissioner Kelly and Mr. Banks felt from what they have heard, there may be an enforcement issue involved. Commissioner Stone asked if both seed and sack oysters could be on a boat. Mr. Banks answered no, you cannot have a sack on your boat. Mr. Bourgeois stated that during the proposed seed only season in Sister Lake there would be no restrictions on having sacks on a boat. This means that a fisherman could not possess sacked oysters onboard a vessel while on Sister Lake. Again Commissioner Kelly thought this would become an enforcement issue and asked when a fisherman is seeding and has both seed and sack oysters onboard a boat, is he illegal. Mr. Bourgeois stated a fisherman could take both sack and seed size oysters during the seed only season for bedding purposes only. Commissioner Kelly then asked, when a fisherman leaves the restricted area, can he sack those oysters and be legal. Major LaCaze stated technically they would not be able to sack those oysters regardless of where the oysters took place. But then you have the enforcement issue of needing to have the boat under observation from the time he harvested the oysters in the seed only area to the point where he began sacking the oysters. Major LaCaze noted this was not a feasible possibility for enforcement. Commissioner Kelly agreed that it would put a major effort on enforcement to have to monitor the situation. Commissioner Felterman asked, if you are in a sack season, can a fisherman keep the seed oysters. Mr. Bourgeois answered once an oyster is in a sack, they have to measure a minimum of three inches. Commissioner Felterman asked if the season was changed, would it be recommended the season be shorter if it went to sacking. Mr. Bourgeois answered yes. Commissioner Felterman then asked the cost for an out-of-state license. A non-resident would pay four times the price of a Louisiana resident. Commissioner Felterman asked if there was a change, could a staff member help with choosing the right dates. Mr. Bourgeois stated a recommendation for a sack and seed oyster season on Sister Lake should be from September 10 to November 18. Commissioner Felterman then made amended the motion to change the Sister Lake area to sack and seed with dates being as stated by Mr. Bourgeois, September 10 to November 18. Commissioner Kelly seconded the substitute motion. The substitute motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2003/2004 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be fished starting on the first Wednesday following Labor Day which in 2003 is September 3, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Seed Reservations, and Tonging Areas" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433(B.2) mandates a sacking only area on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force as provided for in R.S. 56:433(B.1),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that under the authority of R.S. 56:435.1 the season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003/2004 oyster season on the Public Oyster Grounds, Reservations, and Tonging Areas is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under

the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

The oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W.

The oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003.

The season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures.

The following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Mr. Vince Guillory discussed the item, a **Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program**. Act 48 of the 2003 Legislative Session gave the Commission authority to establish a program to remove abandoned crab traps in Louisiana. This legislation was similar to those implemented in Texas and Mississippi. Before the program can be established, the beginning and ending dates of the closure area, the geographic area of the trap closure, who would be allowed to remove the traps and the locations for the traps to be disposed, needed to be settled. Two times per year are when the closures will be conducted, these are a 16 consecutive day period between February 1 and March 31 and a 14 consecutive day period which would include opening day of the spring shrimp season. The recommendations by the Department use a conservative approach and have tried to balance the different user groups. Mr. Guillory also mentioned the Crab Task Force endorsed the program and approved it unanimously at their last meeting. The Department will coordinate the trap removal efforts but it would be volunteered based. The winter closure recommendation is for 6 a.m., February 28, 2004 through 6 a.m., March 14, 2004 in the upper Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays estuaries which encompasses 182,000 acres. The spring closure was proposed for a portion of Vermilion and West Cote Blanche Bays, encompassing 58,000 acres. There are two time options: 1) open at 6 a.m. five days prior to the opening spring inshore season and end at 6 a.m. nine days following that opening date; or 2) if a five day notice cannot be implemented, the closure would begin at 6 a.m. on the opening day of the 2004 spring inshore shrimp season and end at 6 a.m. nine days following that opening date. Any traps in the waters during these closure days would be considered abandoned and could be picked up and transported by anyone. Other restrictions imposed included: all traps removed would be transported to sites designated by the Secretary; no traps taken from the closed area can be retained outside the closed area; and for the winter closure only, traps may be removed from one-half

hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Chairman Denmon asked if this recommendation was similar to what the Committee of the Commission decided. Mr. Guillory answered yes. Commissioner Felterman asked if a serviceable, useable trap had to go to the disposal site. Again, Mr. Guillory answered yes. Commissioner Kelly asked if the disposal sites would pose an economic hardship on those transporting them. Mr. Guillory stated there are plans in Vermilion Bay to have disposal sites on land and to have a barge near Marsh Island. Commissioner Kelly commented there needs to be something done but felt the way the rule was written could cause a hardship. Another problem concerning Commissioner Kelly was the location of the area to be closed for the spring closure. The bulk of the shrimp caught in the spring shrimp season are caught west of the closure line and not east of the closure line. If the east side of the line was closed and crabbers moved their traps into the western portion with all of the shrimpers, there may be a conflict between the crabber and shrimper. Commissioner Kelly realized there was no fix for everyone with this proposal. He also noted the area to remain open could have as many as 150-200 boats whereas the area to be closed would only have 25-30. He suggested maybe reversing that line if freshwater was in the area at the time of the season. Commissioner Stone stated the Committee worked hard to make this fair for everyone. He also noted they copied a lot of the regulations Texas and Mississippi have in place. Commissioner Stone felt there was no fair way to do this but hoped it would benefit the shrimper by getting the abandoned traps out of the water. He suggested trying the program as recommended and then modify the rule as needed. Commissioner Kelly asked that the closure line be flip flopped such that the trap removal would be in the area where there was the most shrimp. Commissioner Mouton felt Commissioner Kelly was right and also asked that the closure be flipped to where the shrimpers would be. Commissioner Sagera stated there would be a public outcry if all of the crab traps were piled on the west side of Vermilion Bay. Commissioner Stone contended that one day this area would have to close. Commissioner Kelly again suggested having the flexibility of moving the closed area from one side of the line to the other depending on where the shrimp are. Commissioner Stone did not think flip flopping on a weekly basis would give enough notice to the crabbers to move their traps. Mrs. Foote asked if there was an interest in moving, for this time, the closed area to western Vermilion Bay. Commissioner Sagera felt this would be palatable to those shrimpers involved. Commissioner Stone did not think the impact would be any different if the closure was the way recommended and changed the next year. Mrs. Foote wanted to make a successful "first time out of the blocks" and be able to make it through the Oversight Committee. She then added that if the Commission wanted to alter the area, staff could write it for their consideration. Commissioner Kelly asked about giving the Secretary authority to close an area where the shrimp are so the fishermen could get the most benefit. Mrs. Foote noted the legislation stated the Commission shall designate areas and thought this meant setting the geographic boundaries.

During the next regular session, Mrs. Foote suggested having the legislation changed. Commissioner Stone hoped giving a set date and staying with it would be more palatable for those volunteers helping out.

Secretary Jenkins asked Mr. Puckett, in order for the Commission to comply with the law, would the Commission be able to name two areas and then the Secretary could decide which one to use. Mr. Puckett expressed the desire to look at the law before commenting. Secretary Jenkins then recommended the Commission set it up that way subject to a review by the Legal Counsel. Commissioner Felterman asked why can a person not retain a trap especially if it is a serviceable trap. Mr. Guillory stated staff decided it would be best to have all traps brought back for disposal whether it was serviceable or not. Commissioner Mouton made a motion, based on a review by Legal, to accept the Notice of Intent and to include the two separate areas and delegating Secretarial authority to choose the area to be closed. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion adding that language should read that whatever was not closed one year would be closed the next.

Mr. Joe Macaluso stated it seemed that the Commission was arguing two different issues. He suggested making the proposal 2 rules and vote on the winter closure now and then come back next month and handle the spring closure.

Mrs. Foote agreed with Mr. Macaluso but since the Crab Task Force endorsed the package, they presented it as one so it would only have to go to the Legislative Oversight Committee one time.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr., stated he was one of the largest crab dealers in south Louisiana. With there being 30 commercial crabbers at his dock, it was a possibility of having 25,000 to 30,000 traps. He did not hear any talk about the method of disposing all of the traps. Mr. Colletti then suggested coming up with a system to smash the traps and help with coastal erosion. Chairman Denmon asked if a method had been discussed. Mr. Guillory stated a federal project would help fund the program. There will be dumpsters placed in the inland sites and someone contracted to bring the traps to landfills. With the barge, the traps would be loaded to capacity, and then the barge would be transported to shore and someone contracted to properly dispose of them.

Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ABANDONED CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, Act 48 (R.S. 56:332) of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a program for the removal of abandoned crab traps from state-owned lake and river beds and other water bottoms of the state, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:332 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to provide for a prohibition on the use of crab traps and for the removal of abandoned traps and their disposal, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall specify the beginning and ending dates for the prohibition on the use of crab traps, shall specify the geographical area within which the use of crab traps shall be prohibited, shall specify who is authorized to remove the abandoned traps, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt a notice of intent to implement a rule for an abandoned crab trap removal program and for two crab trap closures which is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate a notice of intent which describes the abandoned crab trap removal program which will become effective upon promulgation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate the locations where removed and abandoned traps are to be placed for disposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate a Rule, LAC 76:VII.367, which provides for an abandoned crab trap removal program. Authority to establish these regulations is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:332(M). Said rule is attached and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 16-day period from 6:00 a.m., February 28, 2004 through 6:00 a.m. March 14, 2004 within that portion of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes as described below:

From a point originating from the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area at the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence west along the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area to the Humble Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne, thence south along the western shoreline of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou, thence north along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Little Caillou to the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline in Chauvin, thence northwest along the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline to LA Highway 57, thence south and then southeast along LA Highway 57 to its intersection with LA Highway 56, thence south along LA Highway 56 to Latitude 29°17'00" N, thence east along Latitude 29°17'00" N to LA Highway 1, thence north along LA Highway 1 to the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence north along the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee and terminating at the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in a portion of Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay as described later for a 14-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. five days prior to the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion

Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay. In the event that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approves opening the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay before a five-day minimum notice can be provided for the crab trap closure, then the use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a nine-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. on the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to prohibit the use of crab traps within one of the following areas based upon environmental and biological conditions:

1. From a point originating from the intersection of the Acadiana Navigational Channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence south along the eastern shore of Southwest Pass to a position which intersects the inside/outside shrimp line as defined in R.S.56:495, thence west along the inside/outside shrimp line to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou, thence north along the western shore of Freshwater Bayou to its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence east along the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the eastern shore of the Acadiana Navigational Channel.

2. From a point originating from Cypremort Point on Vermilion Bay, thence north along the shoreline of Vermilion Bay to its intersection with the Acadiana Navigational Channel, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence east along the shoreline of Marsh Island to Longitude 91°47'00" W, thence north along Longitude 91°47'00" W to the shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay, thence west along the northern shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay and terminating at Cypremort Point.

C. All crab traps remaining in the closed areas during the specified periods shall be considered abandoned. For the winter closure only, crab traps may be removed only between one-half before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone is authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed areas. All traps removed shall be transported to disposal sites designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. No person removing traps from the designated closed areas shall retain these traps outside of the closed areas.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332 (M).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 29: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Martin Bourgeois, Marine Fisheries Programs Manager, Marine Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Friday, October 3, 2003.


In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **December 2003 Meeting** on Thursday, December 4, 2003, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Feltermann.


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 6, 2003

Chairman Terry Denmon presiding.

Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Henry Mouton
Wayne Sagrera
Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Bill Busbice was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **July 8, 2003, Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Mouton and seconded by Commissioner Stone. The motion passed with no opposition.

Under **Commission Special Announcements**, Commissioner Mouton read a letter addressed to the members of the Commission and Secretary Jenkins. The letter spoke of the recent loss of the Plum Creek WMA and Commissioner Mouton's attempt to contact other possible landowners and the chance they may lease their land for public hunting. However with a lawsuit filed by Louisiana Wildlife Federation and Senator Joe McPherson on the White Lake Donation and the lawsuits on the Maurepas WMA camps, those landowners decided not to allow the Department to use their lands. Commissioner Mouton also explained how these lawsuits have caused the cessation of an ecotourist center on the White Lake property as well as the public use of the area and any future chances of utilizing free land.

Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition began with Lt. Col. Charlie Clark introducing Ms. Doris Copeland, Mr. Brett Beoubay and Mr. Henry Rayborn with ORM. Ms. Copeland stated each year the Office of Risk Management presents a heroic award to a state agency or state employee that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to save a life. Awards would be presented to two employees within the Enforcement Division. She then explained the happenings that occurred in the afternoon of January 8, 2002, when Region 8 Enforcement received a call about a missing man in the Biloxi WMA. Lt. Brian Clark and Pilot Gene Rackle responded to the call and ~~was~~ successful in locating and rescuing the man. Ms. Copeland then commented that Lt. Clark and

Pilot Rackle exhibited bravery to save a life and competence greatly exceeding normal job demands. She then presented the Risk Management Heroic Award to Pilot Gene Rackle and Lt. Col. Clark on behalf of Lt. Brian Clark. Chairman Denmon commended the gentlemen on behalf of the Commission.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for July** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during July.

Region I - Minden - 109 citations and 4 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 95 citations and 14 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 123 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 157 citations and 18 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 198 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 237 citations and 79 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 198 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 351 citations and 34 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 238 citations and 25 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 33 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 17 citations.

SWEP - 12 citations and 4 warnings.

Refuge Patrol - 53 citations and 5 warnings

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of July was 1,706. Also 192 warning citations were issued and agents helped in 71 public assistance statewide.

The aviation report for June 2003 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 46.6 hours for enforcement and 17.0 hours for other divisions. Five citations were issued. Then Major LaCaze stated he provided copies of several News Releases on a variety of items the division worked on during July. These included a baited dove case, taking oysters from a polluted area, undersized black bass from Henderson Bay, and Grand Isle shrimping activities during closed season.

Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns was handled by Mr. Danny Timmer since Mr. Paul

Farrell, Regional Director, nor the State President could attend the meeting. The Turkey Federation is comprised of approximately 4,000 members in the State which conducts about 48 fund raising banquets each year. About \$150,000 to \$200,000 is raised from these banquets which are then deposited into the Louisiana Superfund Account. This money can only be spent in Louisiana; and of this money, a large portion is spent on the WMAs as well as U.S. Forest Service properties. Mr. Timmer acknowledged that the Turkey Federation has been a great friend to this Department. One such project they have helped with was the Voluntary Check Stations where hunters that kill a turkey report their kill. To encourage this participation, the Federation donates 3 shotguns for public drawing. This year's shotguns will be Remington 870's, 3 1/2-inch super magnums. The winners from this year's drawing are: Mr. Nolan Bounds from Washington Parish that shot an 18 pound turkey with 9 3/4 inch beard; Mr. Clint Stephenson from Dubuc, killed a turkey in Lincoln Parish weighing 19 1/2-pound turkey with 9 1/4 inch beard; and Mr. David Dillon from Angie whose turkey weighed 17 pounds with 9 1/4 inch beard. Mr. Timmer thought this would be the last year for this program and he expressed the Commission's appreciation for their time.

*said
may be* A Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons was presented by Mr. Robert Helm. The results from the previous season showed harvest was down 31 percent at about 820,000 total ducks and was the first time since 1995 that at least a million ducks was not harvested in Louisiana. This resulted in Louisiana ranking third in the Mississippi Flyway Council behind Arkansas and Minnesota and fifth in the U.S. In the Mississippi Flyway as a whole, harvest was down 10 percent last year. Northern states, such as Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, had a good season last year. Mr. Helm then noted a series of public hearings were held to address hunters' concerns in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited and Fish & Wildlife Service showing the possible scenario for the last several seasons. *?* He then ~~hoped last year's season was a thing of the past~~ and that there maybe better things ahead. The prairie pothole region had some late winter and spring snows that turned around a pretty poor prediction for this area. At this point, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service video on ducks and geese was shown. Mr. Helm recapped there was overall good news for ducks and geese from the breeding grounds. From the Mississippi Flyway Council Meeting, a recommendation for a 60 day season with 6 bird bag came about. But within that 60 day season, there will be a 30 day pintail and canvasback season. Mr. Helm recommended that they should be cautiously optimistic when talking to hunters for this upcoming season. He then reminded the Commission they changed the zone line 3 years ago putting all of the coastal marshes in the west zone. The recommendation for ducks and coots in the West Zone will be November 8 - November 30 and reopen on December 13 - January 18. The East Zone would be November 15 - November 30 and reopen on December 13 - January 25. For the pintail season, staff was

suggesting the first 30 days in each split followed by a canvasback season in the last 30 days. For pintail in the West Zone, those dates would be November 8 - November 30 and December 13 - December 19; for the East Zone, the season would be November 15 - November 30 and December 13 - December 26. West Zone dates for canvasbacks would be December 20 - January 18; whereas the East Zone would have the dates of December 27 - January 25. The youth waterfowl dates will be the weekend prior to the opening of the duck season in each zone, November 1-2 in the West Zone and November 8-9 in the East Zone. Daily bag limits will be the same as last year. For the goose season, the recommendation was for a statewide ~~Light~~ ^G Geese and ~~White-fronted~~ ^G Geese season with the dates of November 1 - November 30 and December 13 - February 6. The Canada Goose season would run for 9 days from January 17 - January 25. The Conservation Order for ~~Light~~ ^G Geese would allow for a 12 day season from December 1 - December 12 followed by the second split running from February 7 - March 7. The second split for rails and gallinules would open on November 8 - December 31.

indicated Commissioner Mouton ^{to change} stated the comments he has received in the East Zone ~~was~~ to open the first split as late as possible such as November 22 - December 7 and then ~~changing~~ the other dates to get the full 60 day season. Chairman Denmon stated the calls he has received want to back the second half up a week since they felt the birds were more vulnerable to the gun in December rather than January. He added he has not received any calls from West Zone hunters. Commissioner Sagrera commented a problem with both recommendations was it interfered with the Conservation Order for geese. He then noted all of the calls he has received from the East Zone hunters ~~was~~ ^{to change} they wanted to go to January 25, the end of the season. Chairman Denmon asked if the Conservation Order could be changed? Mr. Helm stated when one season change occurs, this has a domino effect on the others. Commissioner Felterman stated all of the comments he has received are in line with those presented. Chairman Denmon stated he has seen better duck hunting in north Louisiana in December and early January rather than late January. Mr. Helm stated the traditional closing has been the Sunday closest to January 20 but now Louisiana is in the middle of an experiment of hunting later in January and allowing the northern states to open in October. All decisions for the seasons are weather dependent. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Chairman Denmon then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Neil Mott from Oak Ridge, stated he was part of a group that talked to 55 hunters in northeast Louisiana and there were a lot of variations among those hunters. But he stated no one wants to go to the end of January since they do not kill birds in late January.

Mr. Warren Coco stated he was in favor of going with Mr. Helm's recommendation. He also suggested waiting to see what happens with the 3 year experiment of going to the end of January. Mr. Coco noted going to the 30th or 31st of January was too late.

Mr. Jerry Hightower, an avid hunter for 62 years, assured the Commission that more ducks would be killed in November and December than in January. He recommended cutting the last days off of the season and move them into December.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Denmon made a substitute motion to move the second split in the East Zone to run from December 6 - December 18. Mr. Helm stated the Conservation Order could be split by the zones and still have the 12 days in the West Zone. Mr. Tommy Prickett asked the Commission to proceed and give staff a few minutes to work out the details. There was no second to the Chairman's motion. Going back to the original motion, Chairman Denmon asked Mr. Helm to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. The motion passed with opposition from Chairman Denmon.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 2003

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington DC, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt

the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours,
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 2003-2004 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

A Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA was the first of three items presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. He began stating there is a WMA in Tangipahoa Parish called Sandy Hollow with a number of school board sections nearby. The Department approached the Tangipahoa Parish School Board and asked them if they would like to leave them open to the public as a WMA and they have agreed to do that. This action would promulgate 2 tracts to be designated the Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA. Hopefully within the next month an additional tract would be added. Mr. Prickett asked the Commission to establish the 2 tracts, which totaled 994 acres, as a WMA. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Felterman and approved with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is
made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has entered into a ten-year lease agreement with the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, for certain tracts or

parcels of land situated in the parish of Tangipahoa, consisting of approximately 994 acres, and more specifically described in Attachment A and locally known as the Husser Tract (647.12 acres) and Loranger Tract (346.89 acres).

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable wildlife habitat, the protection and proper management of which is important to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area to be called the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the land described above, comprised of 994 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, bird watching, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of establishing the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area, including securing and signing all legal documents.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Attachment A.

Certain tracts or parcels of land within Tangipahoa Parish, more particularly described as:

346.89 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 8 E; and
647.12 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 9 E.

A Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA was the next item handled by Mr. Tommy Prickett. This action will set hunting seasons on the Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA. Deer season will be the same as outside except still hunting only; all small game will be the same as outside except beagles will be permitted January 26-February 29 for rabbit; squirrel dogs will be permitted January 26 - February 8; and raccoon hunting at nighttime will be allowed January 26 - February 29. Also he noted there would be no ATVs allowed and the area would be walk-in only. Mr. Prickett asked for a voice vote to promulgate the regulations and ~~they would be included~~ in the hunting pamphlet. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Feltermann made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

2003-2004 Hunting Regulations

Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area (Region 7): (Loranger Tract: 346.89 acres) and (Husser Tract: 647.12 acres)

Self-Clearing Permits Required.

Deer: Same as outside **except** still hunt only.

Small Game: Same as outside **except** beagles permitted January 26-February 29; squirrel dogs permitted January 26-February 8

Raccoon (Nighttime): January 26-February 29

No ATVs. Walk-in only.

Horseback Riding: Organized trail rides prohibited. Riding allowed only on designated roads and trails. Horses and mules are specifically prohibited during turkey and gun seasons for deer.

Contact Wildlife Division, Region 7 for maps and specific information.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to establish the hunting season for Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area. A lease agreement was recently completed on the tracts and as such was not included with the original Notice of Intent.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The last item by Mr. Tommy Prickett was a **Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248**. During the recent Legislative Session, action was taken to establish a bobcat season by the Department. Prior to 1978, bobcats and foxes were an outlawed quadruped, which allowed them to be hunted 365 days a year with no bag limit. In 1978, the bobcat was designated a fur animal and the recreational take was suspended. Staff ~~looked at~~ the historical information on the harvest of bobcats prior to 1978, the trapping data from the past 30 years and what the adjoining states allow. Mr. Prickett recommended that hunters be allowed to take one bobcat during the open deer season. Scent post surveys were conducted when there was a high bobcat harvest and there was no significant change in the visitation of bobcats except in the Florida Parishes. Since these surveys were suspended, there have been significant changes in bobcat habitat. Bobcat populations are dependent upon prey species and the best habitat in Louisiana are bottomland hardwoods. Mr. Prickett also recommended a season limit of one bobcat for properly licensed deer hunters during the open deer season. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then asked for public comments.

Examined

four *four* Mr. Beau Gast, Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association, stated they take in all of the injured or orphaned wildlife in the state. He noted his Association is against the proposal with their being no biological data to back up the bobcat in this state. The information given by Mr. Prickett is *anecdotal* and inconsistent trapping data. The rehabilitators in Louisiana have only taken in 4 bobcats over the last 10 years. Mr. Gast felt this action was not legal as it related to the Administrative Procedure Act. Another concern by the Association was there is no bobcat management plan in place. Mr. Gast felt there would be an increase in the numbers of bobcats brought to wildlife rehabilitators, which are very expensive to rehabilitate. One other problem was a dead carcass may be left behind since most people do not eat the meat of bobcats. He asked that accurate biological data be obtained and have a management plan in place before starting a bobcat season. Mr. Gast then read several comments he received by e-mail opposing the bobcat season.

four is two

Mr. Jeff Dorson, Humane Society of Louisiana, also stated they are against the proposed regulation since there was no scientific data to support opening a season. He then went over the process the bill went through during the legislative session. On the House side, it was introduced and passed out of Committee and the House Floor without much discussion. There was an open debate in the Senate Committee passing with a vote of 4 to 2 due to there being no statistical data on population density. Senator Butch Gautreaux voiced those concerns on the Senate Floor and it was returned to the Calendar twice since it did not have the votes to pass. The bill did pass with an amendment and this caused a House Conference Committee and the fox provision was dropped. Mr. Dorson stated the Society was in favor of a moratorium until data is available.

Dr. Mike Chamberlain, LSU Professor, stated he did his doctoral research on bobcats. He did not think the previous gentlemen were right in that there has been no quantitative scientifically based research project conducted in Louisiana in the past few years to justify a harvest rate. But, he noted, there is a considerable knowledge and literature base in surrounding states that documents survival rates of adult and juvenile bobcats. The harvest limit is quite conservative compared to Mississippi having an open season with no bag limit. Dr. Chamberlain felt most hunters would not shoot a bobcat as this would destroy their deer hunt for that day. With the type of season recommended, there may be a total harvest of 3,000 to 4,000 per year.

Mr. Prickett added to Dr. Chamberlain's comments that they looked at what the adjoining states' regulations are and Louisiana has half of the woodland acres that Mississippi has. Staff has calculated the bobcat harvest may be about 2,000 in this state. Commissioner Sagrera felt the concept that 250,000 hunters would kill 250,000 bobcats goes from one extreme to another. From the comments he has received especially from southwestern marsh areas which are not bobcat habitat, there have been more sightings of these animals and he supported the Department's recommendation thinking it was quite conservative. Commissioner Kelly noted that when the animals were outlawed, no great numbers of bobcats were killed at that time. So he felt the proposal would not wipe out the bobcat population. Chairman Denmon stated the recommendation by the Department is pretty restrictive. Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and Act 1248 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule.

Properly licensed big game hunters may take a bobcat during the open deer hunting season. The season limit on bobcats taken by recreational deer hunters shall be one. Legal shooting hours and methods of take shall be the same as those for deer in each area of the state.

This rule shall take effect on September 13, 2003, which coincides with the opening of the 2003 archery season.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season** and none were made.

Mr. Greg Linscombe handled the next item, a **Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003-2004 Trapping Season**. Trapping licenses almost doubled from a year ago to about 1,600 this year due largely to the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. Comparative take was up 289,000 animals which was also directly related to the Coastwide Nutria Control Program. Total value of the harvest was \$1.5 million to the trappers. Nutria harvest was 308,160 and the average for the 3 years before that was 20,000-25,000 per year. The average price paid went down to \$1.40 but was supplemented by the \$4 per tail from the Control Program. In the program, there were 342 participants, representing 22 parishes, that turned in 300,000 tails and received \$1.2 million in incentive payments. Method of take was 63 percent shot with a rifle, 3 percent took the animals with a shotgun and 34 percent trapped the animals. February was the most active month for tail collections and December was the least active. Damage surveys flown in May showed 82,000 acres were impacted which is not significantly different but it would take 2 or 3 growing seasons to see if the program works and to see improvements. Mr. Linscombe did report an overall improvement in the condition of the damaged spots. The only other significant change in harvest was with the raccoon jumping from 6,000 to 11,000 even though there was a drop in prices. River otter has the most valuable pelt to trappers and this increased from 2,600 to almost 4,000 with pelt prices going from \$50 to \$59. Chairman Denmon asked Mr. Linscombe to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Chairman Denmon asked what may trigger lengthening or shortening the season? Mr. Linscombe stated a request to extend may come from fur buyers when prices go up and the season would soon close. He also noted he could not remember ever closing a season before it was time.

Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

**2003-2004 Fur Trapping Season
Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 2003**

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:259(A) authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of nongame quadrupeds and allows the Commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act allows the Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana has historically lead the nation in the production of wild fur with value to the trappers as high as \$24 million in some seasons, and
- WHEREAS, the harvest of this renewable resource is important in providing supplemental income to citizens of the state while furnishing an essential management tool to reduce nuisance wildlife problems, property damage, the impact of prey species, the incident of density dependent disease and provide a measure of population health and general condition, and
- WHEREAS, regulated trapping provides the only practical control of muskrat and nutria populations, an essential part of any effort to protect or enhance coastal wetlands. The role of such trapping cannot be overstated because of the rate of wetland loss and the impact that these wetland grazers are having in southeastern parishes, and
- WHEREAS, during the 2003-2004 trapping season the department will continue the Coastwide Nutria Control Program providing an incentive payment of \$4.00 per nutria tail to participants for up to 400,000 nutria with the objective of reducing damage to coastal wetlands, and

WHEREAS, the increased commercial harvest of beaver can play a major role in assisting in the reduction of damage to timber, agriculture, drainage, and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, historical and current information collected by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have indicated that the optimum time frame for the harvest of furbearers is between November and March each year, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003, through March 31, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the trapping season in any area of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003-2004 fur harvest season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:259(A) which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of non-game quadrupeds and allows the Commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year and in accordance with emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003, through March 31, 2004. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby also authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the adopted season.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season began with Mr. Marty Bourgeois stated Congress

appropriated \$8.7 million to assist Louisiana shrimp industries. The Governor has approved a plan which charges the Department with administering the funds. By the end of that day, approximately 6,000 applications would have been mailed explaining the source of the funds and a certification form. When all of the forms are returned, the money would then be distributed to the shrimpers. With respect to the fall inshore shrimp season, Mr. Bourgeois stated there are multiple size groups present in the current population. Also a full moon would occur on August 12 which would cause high tides. Considering these factors and the relatively short spring season in Zone 2, the Department recommended opening Zones 2 and 3 at official sunrise on Monday, August 11 and Zone 1 at official sunrise on Monday, August 18. Additionally, staff recommended closing Zones 2 and 3 at official sunset December 16 and in Zone 1 at official sunset December 31. The proposed rule would also give the Secretary authority to close the season if there is a need to do so and the authority to close or reopen outside waters if significant numbers of small shrimp appear. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the dates as presented. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion. Chairman Denmon then opened the discussion for public comment.

Mr. Marcel Reon, Zone 2, stated over the last three weeks shrimp have been moving out of Grand Isle pass. He suggested there should be a way to monitor the shrimp and open the season early when they are leaving. Mr. Bourgeois commented they have done different things this year such as Secretary Jenkins authorized an extension of the spring shrimp season in Zone 2 in a portion of Timbalier and Terrebonne ~~Days~~. But there was a problem with defining boundaries as well as enforcement problems.

Mr. John Brown, commercial fishermen from Zone 2, stated he was totally against the extension. Over the last 15 years, the land has eroded and this was causing the shrimp to leave the inside waters sooner. Mr. Brown also suggested opening the fall season earlier as well as the spring season. He then asked that maybe the meeting to set the season be held earlier next year. Mr. Bourgeois stated the consensus of the fishermen, dealers and processors he has talked to coastwide felt the spring season opened at the right time. As far as extensions, these areas are monitored very closely. Speaking again, Mr. John Brown, in his opinion, felt when you start seeing the white shrimp it is too late to close the season since they are very vulnerable.

Mr. Pete Gerica, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated the Department has done a fine job. What the previous gentleman was talking about was coastal erosion, commented Mr. Gerica. He added that there was a need for barriers to hold the water in. Also Mr. Gerica suggested micromanaging each part of the three zones.

Hearing no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2003 Fall Shrimp Season Opening adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission August 6, 2003

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to fix no less than two open shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides that shrimp season openings shall be based on biological and technical data which indicate that marketable shrimp, in sufficient quantities, are available for harvest, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal possession count on saltwater white shrimp shall average no more than 100 whole specimens to the pound (100 count per pound), except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count, and
- WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by early August and white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zone 1 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by mid August, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with public notification provisions specified in R.S. 56:497, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby opens the 2003 fall shrimp season in inside waters in Shrimp Management Zone 1 at official sunrise August 18, 2003 and in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 at official sunrise August 11, 2003.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby fix the closing dates for the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in inside waters at official sunset December 16, 2003, in Zones 2 and 3, and official sunset December 31, 2003, in Zone 1, except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the

closing dates if biological or technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana state inside waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana waters to open as follows:

Shrimp Management Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the Mississippi-Louisiana State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at official sunrise August 18, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season in Zone 2 and Zone 3 at official sunset December 16, 2003, and Zone 1 at official sunset December 31, 2003, except in the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries to change the closing dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef was presented by Mrs. Karen Foote. An area in Little Lake in Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes no longer has oyster leases but there is an oyster resource. For someone to fish this resource, the Commission needed to establish it as an open ground. Mrs. Foote then asked that the area be established as a temporary natural reef. The area is less than 100 square miles of total bottoms. Within a year, Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion would be operating and at that time this resource would die. Mrs. Foote then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. She added that since this would be for a short term, the mitigation requirements ~~has~~ been exempted. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

have
(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED TEMPORARY NATURAL REEF
August 6, 2003

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(12) provides that the Commission shall, through its Secretary, improve, enlarge, and protect the natural oyster reefs of this state as conditions may warrant, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Department may designate from which natural reefs oysters may be fished, and
- WHEREAS, oyster leases were purchased or relocated pursuant to R.S. 56:432.1 in a portion of Little Lake and nearby waterbottoms in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes, and
- WHEREAS, the waterbottoms in that portion of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes have been reported to contain oysters of harvestable size and quantity, and
- WHEREAS, due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, the oyster resource in

this area is in imminent peril of being irretrievably lost.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries establish a designated temporary natural reef in the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity - Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes in the area described in the attached Declaration of Emergency which is attached to and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, including but not limited to the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and in accordance with R.S. 56:6(12) and R.S. 56:433, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries declare and designate those waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes more specifically described below to be a designated temporary natural reef.

The oyster resource located on this designated reef may be irretrievably lost due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, which poses imminent peril to the welfare of the people of the state as a result of the permanent and irreplaceable loss of this natural resource and the resulting loss of economic benefit to the oyster industry. Inasmuch as the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion is anticipated to resume normal operations within 12 months, standard rulemaking procedures and timeframes would leave little, if any, time for an orderly and efficient harvest of this resource. Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do hereby declare the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche parishes as described below a designated temporary natural reef:

Beginning at the point on the western bank of the Barataria Waterway, latitude of 29° 34' 40" North, longitude 90° 03' 35.070" West; thence southerly along the western bank of the Barataria Waterway to a point, latitude 29° 30' 27.226" North, longitude 90° 01' 25.438" West; thence southwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 26' 37.361" North, longitude 90° 07' 26.119" West; thence northwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 28' 50.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence North to a point, latitude 29° 34' 40.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence East to the point of beginning.

All statutes, regulations, and policies pertaining to the use of public oyster grounds will be in force in this temporary natural reef with the exception of any additional mitigation requirements levied from time to time for construction, oil and gas exploration, or pipeline construction activities.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective on September 3, 2003, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until revocation by the Commission and the Department.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas began with Mr. Marty Bourgeois introducing Mr. Patrick Banks. Mr. Banks is the biologist that has worked very closely in the oyster management program and has compiled the annual stock assessment report. Chairman Denmon welcomed Mr. Banks and told him the floor was his. Mr. Banks went straight into stating the Department's recommendations for the 2003-04 oyster season on the public grounds. A copy of the stock assessment report, completed in July, was given to the Commissioners. Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and Little Lake Designated Temporary Natural Reef would open September 3, 2003, and close April 1, 2004; other areas east of the Mississippi River, Lake Borgne and the sacking only area and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation would open on September 10, 2003, and run through April 1, 2004; dates for the north end of Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation would be September 10, 2003, through September 16, 2003; Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation would open for seed only on September 10, 2003, and close September 21, 2003; and then for seed and sacking in Sister Lake, the season would run from September 22, 2003, through November 30, 2003; and the Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Area season would go from October 15, 2003, through April 30, 2004. Mr. Banks then read a portion of the **Therefore Be It Resolved** included on the Resolution. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Department's recommendations. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion. The Chairman then asked for public comments.

Mr. Dennis Pixton, member of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and oyster farmer and harvester, stated the Task Force asked that the Bay Gardene and Little Lake areas open on September 10 and that the Vermilion/Cote Blanche/Atchafalaya Bays area open on September 3. The concern with Bay Gardene was the fact it was the only primary area east of the River to open and it is such a small area. Also Mr. Pixton noted this area has not been favorable and has been infested with mussels in the past. He concluded by asking that the Task Force's recommendations be considered by the Commission.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr. stated he looked at the statement on opening Sister Lake for seed only and wanted to know why that could not be made into a seed and sack area. When 200 to 300 boats get in that area, there is no such thing as seed, the fishermen take everything that is on that area. What some boats do was they take the seed, move it and then a week later they will sack those oysters. Mr. Colletti then mentioned a Texas man was coming with 15 boats to move seed from the area and they are not even allowed to work the area. He then asked the Commission to help them and get the area open to seed and sacking. Mr. Banks stated the most boats counted on opening day in Sister Lake was 70 and staff feels the lake can handle this many boats. After the seed season, there will be an opportunity to sack oysters. The example spoken by Mr. Colletti does occur and enforcement will try to curb this as much as possible. Staff feels, based on the stock assessment, the seed season in Sister Lake will benefit the resource. In response to Mr. Pixton's comments on Bay Gardene, Mr. Banks noted this is a small area but there was a need for these reefs to be worked by dredges in order to help that resource. Also, since Bay Gardene is a seed reservation, they are trying to push the industry to use the area to bring up seeds to be place on their grounds.

Mr. Angelev Collins stated what Mr. Banks just said about working the reefs would benefit only certain people. At least 60 percent of the oysters in Houma area could be picked up and sold that day.

Mr. Travis Simon, an oystercfisherman, stated he agreed with what Mr. Collins and Mr. Colletti said. If the reefs are opened for seed oysters, those big boats will come in and take all of the seed oysters and put them on their bedding grounds. When those boats finish working the area, Mr. Simon felt there would not even be enough oysters to eat.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr., commented that the only thing that will be sacked after the seed only season would be dirt, mud and gravel. He felt there would not just be 70 boats in Sister Lake, but rather 100-125 boats and 50-75 of those would be from Texas. When an area is opened in his area, it will take 3-4 years to get it back to its original shape once the Texas boats get finished. Mr. Colletti then talked about the labor on the Texas boats being all Mexicans.

He again asked that they be allowed to go into the area and sack the oysters.

Mr. Travis Simon stated he used to get \$2 to \$3 a sack for the oysters when he worked as a deckhand. Now the Texas boats are paying the Mexicans 75 cents to a \$1 per sack. Mr. Simon also asked the Commission to help them.

their
were
increased
Commissioner Sagrera asked if there are any restrictions on out-of-state boaters harvesting seed in Louisiana waters or the amount they can take? Mr. Banks stated they would need an out-of-state license but are not limited on the amount they can take. Commissioner Felterman asked if the Sister Lake area was opened for sacking, would it create a biological problem? Mr. Banks felt ~~there~~ concern may be in overharvesting the resource. Comments also ~~received was~~ that the area was opened too early for sacking while having a later opening would produce a better yield. The resource in the Lake can handle a compromise opening earlier for seeds and later to have a better yield. Also noted by Mr. Banks was the Resolution authorizes the Secretary to open and close areas as data determines. Even with Sister Lake not opening for sacking until September 22, there were other areas that could be worked before that time. Chairman Denmon asked if the Department has a way to determine the number of out-of-state versus in-state boats that are working an area? Mr. Banks explained that during a season, staff goes and make boarding reports and can make it available to the Commission. Chairman Denmon noted the out-of-state boaters maybe an issue that should be looked into. Commissioner Sagrera also suggested finding a legal way to maintain control of the resource for local fishermen. Mr. Banks knew the only control available now was the increased cost for an out-of-state license. Commissioner Felterman asked what happens to seed oysters during sack season? Mr. Banks stated those seed oysters less than 3 inches would be culled and placed back on the reef.

Mr. Angelev Collins stated the fishermen are taking the seed oysters and putting them on their own reefs.

Mr. Patrick Collins commented the north side of Bay Junop has no oysters, there was a reef there maybe as big as the Louisiana Room. After the fishermen take seed from Sister Lake for 12 days, the only oyster left would be the undersized oysters for which they would be ticketed.

Commissioner Kelly asked what are the percentages on the reefs for seed versus harvestable sack oysters? Mr. Banks quoting from the stock assessment report showed seed was up in Sister Lake compared to last year but sack availability from last year was down from the previous year. The ratio for this year was a little better than 1:1 sack to seed. Commissioner Kelly asked if a fisherman was sacking oysters, would he be allowed to have seed oyster on his boat as well? Mr. Banks stated there is a 3 inch

period
minimum size for sack oysters. Commissioner Kelly and Mr. Banks felt from what they have heard, there may be an enforcement issue involved. Commissioner Stone asked if both seed and sack oysters could be on a boat? Mr. Banks answered no, you cannot have a sack on your boat. *cannot* Mr. Bourgeois stated that during the proposed seed only season in Sister Lake there would be no restrictions on having sacks on a boat. This means that a fisherman could not possess sacked oysters onboard a vessel while on Sister Lake. Again Commissioner Kelly thought this would become an enforcement issue and asked when a fisherman is seeding and has both seed and sack oysters onboard a boat, is he illegal? Mr. Bourgeois stated a fisherman could take both sack and seed size oysters during the seed only season for bedding purposes only. Commissioner Kelly then asked, when a fisherman leaves the restricted area, can he sack those oysters and be legal? Major LaCaze stated technically they would not be able to sack those oysters regardless of where the oysters took place. But then you have the enforcement issue of needing to have the boat under observation from the time he harvested the oysters in the seed only area to the point where he began sacking the oysters. Major LaCaze noted this was not a feasible possibility for enforcement. Commissioner Kelly agreed that it would put a major effort on enforcement to have to monitor the situation. Commissioner Felterman asked, if you are in a sack season, can a fisherman keep the seed oysters? Mr. Bourgeois answered once an oyster is in a sack, they have to measure a minimum of 3 inches. Commissioner Felterman asked if the season was changed, would it be recommended the season be shorter if it went to sacking? Mr. Bourgeois answered yes. Commissioner Felterman then asked the cost for an out-of-state license? A non-resident would pay four times the price of a Louisiana resident. Commissioner Felterman asked if there was a change, could a staff member help with choosing the right dates? Mr. Bourgeois stated a recommendation for a sack and seed oyster season on Sister Lake should be from September 10 to November 18. Commissioner Felterman then made amended the motion to change the Sister Lake area to sack and seed with dates being as stated by Mr. Bourgeois, September 10 to November 18. Commissioner Kelly seconded the substitute motion. The substitute motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2003/2004 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be fished starting on the first Wednesday following Labor Day which in 2003 is September 3, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Seed Reservations, and Tonging Areas" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433(B.2) mandates a sacking only area on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force as provided for in R.S. 56:433(B.1),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003, and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003, and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 15, 2003, and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 21, 2003, in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003, and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that under the authority of R.S. 56:435.1 the season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003, and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003/2004 oyster season on the Public Oyster Grounds, Reservations, and Tonging Areas is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under

the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003, and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003, and close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

The oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003, and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 9, 2003, in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W.

The oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003, and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003.

The season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003, and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures.

The following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Mr. Vince Guillory discussed the item, a **Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program**. Act 48 of the 2003 Legislative Session gave the Commission authority to establish a program to remove abandoned crab traps in Louisiana. This legislation was similar to those implemented in Texas and Mississippi. Before the program can be established, the beginning and ending dates of the closure area, the geographic area of the trap closure, who would be allowed to remove the traps and the locations for the traps to be disposed, needed to be settled. Two times per year are when the closures will be conducted, these are a 16 consecutive day period between February 1 and March 31 and a 14 consecutive day period which would include opening day of the spring shrimp season. The recommendations by the Department use a conservative approach and have tried to balance the different user groups. Mr. Guillory also mentioned the Crab Task Force endorsed the program and approved it unanimously at their last meeting. The Department will coordinate the trap removal efforts but it would be volunteered based. The winter closure recommendation is for 6 a.m., February 28, 2004 through 6 a.m., March 14, 2004, in the upper Terrebonne and Timbalier Bay Sestuaries which encompasses 182,000 acres. The spring closure was proposed for a portion of Vermilion and West Cote Blanche Bays, encompassing 58,000 acres. There are two time options: 1) open at 6 a.m. five days prior to the opening spring inshore season and end at 6 a.m. nine days following that opening date; or 2) if a five day notice cannot be implemented, the closure would begin at 6 a.m. on the opening day of the 2004 spring inshore shrimp season and end at 6 a.m. nine days following that opening date. Any traps in the waters during these closure days would be considered abandoned and could be picked up and transported by anyone. Other restrictions imposed included: all traps removed would be transported to sites designated by the Secretary; no traps taken from the closed area can be retained outside the closed area; and for the winter closure only, traps may be removed from one-half

hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Chairman Denmon asked if this recommendation was similar to what the Committee of the Commission decided? Mr. Guillory answered yes. Commissioner Felterman asked if a serviceable, useable trap had to go to the disposal site? Again, Mr. Guillory answered yes. Commissioner Kelly asked if the disposal sites would pose an economic hardship on those transporting them? Mr. Guillory stated there are plans in Vermilion Bay to have disposal sites on land and to have a barge near Marsh Island. Commissioner Kelly commented there needs to be something done but felt the way the rule was written could cause a hardship. Another problem concerning Commissioner Kelly was the location of the area to be closed for the spring closure. The bulk of the shrimp caught in the spring shrimp season are caught west of the closure line and not east of the closure line. If the east side of the line was closed and crabbers moved their traps into the western portion with all of the shrimpers, there may be a conflict between the crabber and shrimper. Commissioner Kelly realized there was no fix for everyone with this proposal. He also noted the area to remain open could have as many as 150-200 boats whereas the area to be closed would only have 25-30. He suggested maybe reversing that line if freshwater was in the area at the time of the season. Commissioner Stone stated the Committee worked hard to make this fair for everyone. He also noted they copied a lot of the regulations Texas and Mississippi have in place. Commissioner Stone felt there was no fair way to do this but hoped it would benefit the shrimper by getting the abandoned traps out of the water. He suggested trying the program as recommended and then modify the rule as needed. Commissioner Kelly asked that the closure line be flip flopped such that the trap removal would be in the area where there was the most shrimp. Commissioner Mouton felt Commissioner Kelly was right and also asked that the closure be flipped to where the shrimpers would be. Commissioner Sagrera stated there would be a public outcry if all of the crab traps were piled on the west side of Vermilion Bay. Commissioner Stone contended that one day this area would have to close. Commissioner Kelly again suggested having the flexibility of moving the closed area from one side of the line to the other depending on where the shrimp are. Commissioner Stone did not think flip flopping on a weekly basis would give enough notice to the crabbers to move their traps. Mrs. Foote asked if there was an interest in moving, for this time, the closed area to western Vermilion Bay? Commissioner Sagrera felt this would be palatable to those shrimpers involved. Commissioner Stone did not think the impact would be any different if the closure was the way recommended and changed the next year. Mrs. Foote wanted to make a successful "first time out of the blocks" and be able to make it through the Oversight Committee. She then added that if the Commission wanted to alter the area, staff could write it for their consideration. Commissioner Kelly asked about giving the Secretary authority to close an area where the shrimp are so the fishermen could get the most benefit. Mrs. Foote noted the legislation stated the Commission shall designate areas and thought this meant setting the geographic boundaries.

During the next regular session, Mrs. Foote suggested having the legislation changed. Commissioner Stone hoped giving a set date and staying with it would be more palatable for those volunteers helping out.

Secretary Jenkins asked Mr. Puckett, in order for the Commission to comply with the law, would the Commission be able to name two areas and then the Secretary could decide which one to use? Mr. Puckett expressed the desire to look at the law before commenting. Secretary Jenkins then recommended the Commission set it up that way subject to a review by the Legal Counsel. Commissioner Felterman asked why can a person not retain a trap especially if it is a serviceable trap? Mr. Guillory stated staff decided it would be best to have all traps brought back for disposal whether it was serviceable or not. Commissioner Mouton made a motion, based on a review by Legal, to accept the Notice of Intent and to include the two separate areas and delegating Secretarial authority to choose the area to be closed. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion adding that language should read that whatever was not closed one year would be closed the next.

Mr. Joe Macaluso stated it seemed that the Commission was arguing two different issues. He suggested making the proposal 2 rules and vote on the winter closure now and then come back next month and handle the spring closure.

Mrs. Foote agreed with Mr. Macaluso but since the Crab Task Force endorsed the package, they presented it as one so it would only have to go to the Legislative Oversight Committee one time.

Mr. Joe Colletti, Sr., stated he was one of the largest crab dealers in south Louisiana. With there being 30 commercial crabbers at his dock, it was a possibility of having 25,000 to 30,000 traps. He did not hear any talk about the method of disposing all of the traps. Mr. Colletti then suggested coming up with a system to smash the traps and help with coastal erosion. Chairman Denmon asked if a method had been discussed? Mr. Guillory stated a federal project would help fund the program. There will be dumpsters placed in the inland sites and someone contracted to bring the traps to landfills. With the barge, the traps would be loaded to capacity, and then the barge would be transported to shore and someone contracted to properly dispose of them.

Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

ABANDONED CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, Act 48 (R.S. 56:332) of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a program for the removal of abandoned crab traps from state-owned lake and river beds and other water bottoms of the state, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:332 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to provide for a prohibition on the use of crab traps and for the removal of abandoned traps and their disposal, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall specify the beginning and ending dates for the prohibition on the use of crab traps, shall specify the geographical area within which the use of crab traps shall be prohibited, shall specify who is authorized to remove the abandoned traps, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt a notice of intent to implement a rule for an abandoned crab trap removal program and for two crab trap closures which is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate a notice of intent which describes the abandoned crab trap removal program which will become effective upon promulgation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate the locations where removed and abandoned traps are to be placed for disposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate a Rule, LAC 76:VII.367, which provides for an abandoned crab trap removal program. Authority to establish these regulations is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:332(M). Said rule is attached and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 16-day period from 6:00 a.m., February 28, 2004, through 6:00 a.m. March 14, 2004, within that portion of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes as described below:

From a point originating from the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area at the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence west along the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area to the Humble Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne, thence south along the western shoreline of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou, thence north along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Little Caillou to the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline in Chauvin, thence northwest along the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline to LA Highway 57, thence south and then southeast along LA Highway 57 to its intersection with LA Highway 56, thence south along LA Highway 56 to Latitude 29°17'00" N, thence east along Latitude 29°17'00" N to LA Highway 1, thence north along LA Highway 1 to the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence north along the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee and terminating at the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in a portion of Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay as described later for a 14-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. five days prior to the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion

Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay. In the event that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approves opening the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay before a five-day minimum notice can be provided for the crab trap closure, then the use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a nine-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. on the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay or Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to prohibit the use of crab traps within one of the following areas based upon environmental and biological conditions:

1. From a point originating from the intersection of the Acadiana Navigational Channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence south along the eastern shore of Southwest Pass to a position which intersects the inside/outside shrimp line as defined in R.S.56:495, thence west along the inside/outside shrimp line to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou, thence north along the western shore of Freshwater Bayou to its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence east along the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the eastern shore of the Acadiana Navigational Channel.

2. From a point originating from Cypremort Point on Vermilion Bay, thence north along the shoreline of Vermilion Bay to its intersection with the Acadiana Navigational Channel, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence east along the shoreline of Marsh Island to Longitude 91°47'00" W, thence north along Longitude 91°47'00" W to the shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay, thence west along the northern shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay and terminating at Cypremort Point.

C. All crab traps remaining in the closed areas during the specified periods shall be considered abandoned. For the winter closure only, crab traps may be removed only between one-half before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone is authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed areas. All traps removed shall be transported to disposal sites designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. No person removing traps from the designated closed areas shall retain these traps outside of the closed areas.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332(M).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 29: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Martin Bourgeois, Marine Fisheries Programs Manager, Marine Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Friday, October 3, 2003.

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **December 2003 Meeting** on Thursday, December 4, 2003, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

There being no further business, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Felterman.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Outdoors

Thursday, August 7, 2003

The Advocate
Page 12D

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

La. hunters get another liberal season

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Buoyed by increasing breeding counts on mostly wetter northern U.S. and Canadian nesting areas, Louisiana hunters will have another 60-day, six-ducks-per-day season.

That was confirmed Wednesday when the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, acting on recommendation by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, set the length of seasons and liberal hunting limits for the state's East and West zones.

West hunters will get first crack: Their season opens Nov. 8. The East Zone will open Nov. 15. Each zone has two splits with the West Zone running its 60-day course Jan. 18, 2004, while the East Zone hunters will be allowed to take ducks through Jan. 25, 2004. There is a 12-day layoff and a Dec. 13 second-split opener in both zones.

For the third year, the state's West Zone will take on all the coastal parishes south of U.S. 90.

The only downside in the duck hunting framework issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are restricted 30-day, one-per-day seasons for pintail and canvasback. The two species showed increases from 2003 numbers — pintail numbers were up 43 percent in one year — but are below the long-term averages established by the USFWS from 1955-2002.

"It's the seventh year of the liberal (60-day, 6-duck) regulations," State Waterfowl Study leader Robert Helm told the commission. "However, inside the 60-day season are two 30-day seasons within the season (pintail and canvasback) and that's never happened before."

"While the outlook is good," Helm continued, "we have to caution that all the good news about ducks does not necessarily equate into better hunting. We're cautiously optimistic for Louisiana hunters, but there are a lot of factors that will influence our season, rainfall here and the severity of the winter up north."

The reason for the liberal dates and limits comes after surveys by U.S. and Canadian biologists showed pond counts in May, numbered at 5.19 million were up 91 percent from 2002, and that overall duck numbers were up 16 percent — 31.181 million in 2002 to 36.225 million this year — and that numbers of breeding mallards jumped from 7.5 million to 7.9 million.

A 31 percent increase in bluewing teal and a 15 percent jump in greenwing teal were reasons for an increase from a nine-day special September teal season to a 16-day season this year.

"If the weather cooperates, we should have a jam-up season," Helm said.

The LWFC also approved an 86-day

"We're cautiously optimistic for Louisiana hunters, but there are a lot of factors that will influence our season, rainfall here and the severity of the winter up north."

— Robert Helm,
State Waterfowl Study leader

statewide, all-species goose season, a nine-day season for Canada geese and a two-split, 42-day total Conservation Order season for blue, snow and Ross' geese that will take Louisiana wild waterfowlers' season into March.

The LWFC's vote on the duck season was 5-1. With Lafayette's Bill Busbice absent, the only "nay" came from commission chairman Terry Denmon, who proposed a one-week earlier opener for the East Zone duck season's second split, which would have ended the duck season on Jan. 18 in both zones. Denmon reacted to a plea from north Louisiana hunters for the earlier close, but the proposal failed for the lack of a second to his motion.

OTHER ITEMS: The LWFC spent as much as 20 minutes trying wrangling with problems in the new Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Program.

The plan for a Feb. 28-March 14, 2004 removal in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes was OK, but commission member Thomas Kelly wanted the western half of Vermilion Bay set for the first 14-day removal plan in that area when the spring inshore shrimp season begins in 2004. The LWFC approved the plan, but will hold open discussion at its Sept. 4 meeting.

• Enforcement Capt. Brian Clark and LDWF pilot Gene Rackel were recognized by the Office of Risk Management for rescuing a 75-year-old hunter in the Biloxi Wildlife Management Area last year.

• Three hunters names, were drawn from envelopes and named winners of state Wild Turkey Federation chapter-donated shotguns. The hunters participated in the this year's turkey harvest check at stations around the state.

They are Nolan Bounds from Washington Parish, David Dillon from Angie and Clint Stephenson from Dubach.

• Enforcement agents issued 1,706 citations and handed out 192 warnings, most for boating and fishing-license violations, in the state during July.

• And, the LWFC set its December meeting for Dec. 4 in Baton Rouge.

2003-04 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL/BIRD SEASONS

2003-2004 season dates and bag limits approved Wednesday by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and subject to approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except closing hours at 2 p.m. in the Spanish Lake (Iberia Parish) Recreation Area, including the Conservation Order period for geese. (Special days and hunting hours on wildlife management areas.)

Ducks, coots, mergansers

(60 days with special 30-day seasons on pintails and canvasbacks)

West Zone: Nov. 8-30, 2003 & Dec. 13, 2003-Jan. 18, 2004

East Zone: Nov. 15-30, 2003 & Dec. 13, 2003-Jan. 25, 2004

Special Pintail Seasons (30 days with limit of one per day)

West Zone: Nov. 8-30, 2003 & Dec. 13-19, 2003

East Zone: Nov. 15-30, 2003 & Dec. 13-26, 2003

Special Canvasback Seasons (30 days with limit of one per day)

West Zone: Dec. 20, 2003-Jan. 18, 2004

East Zone: Dec. 27, 2003-Jan. 25, 2004

Youth Waterfowl Weekends

West Zone: Nov. 1, 2, 2003; East Zone: Nov. 8-9, 2003

Daily Limits

Six per day with restrictions of four mallards (no more than two hens), three mottled ducks, three scaup (dos gris), two wood ducks, two redhead and one black duck. There is a one pintail and one canvasback per day limit only in special seasons and during youth weekends; five mergansers (no more than one hooded merganser); and 15 coots. Possession limit is twice the daily limit after opening days.

Special Teal Season (16 days) Sept. 13-28, 2003; Daily limit 4; Possession limit 8

Geese

(86 days, statewide seasons on Snow, Blue, Ross, and Specklebellies)

Nov. 1-30, 2003 & Dec. 13, 2003-Feb. 6, 2004

Daily Limits

20 per day on snow, blue & Ross' geese with no possession limits

2 per day for specklebellies with a possession limit of four after opening days

Conservation Order (snow, blue & Ross' geese only)

Dec. 1-12, 2003 & Feb. 7-March 7, 2004. (Season allows use of electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, no daily bag nor possession limits and extends shooting hours to one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.)

Canada Geese

Jan. 17-25, 2004, season requires special \$5 state permit and excludes portions of southwestern parishes. Daily limit is one; Possession limit is two.

Rails

Sept. 13-28, 2003 & Nov. 8-Dec. 31, 2003

Daily limit is 15 and possession limit is 30 in the aggregate of king and clapper rails.

Daily and possession limit for sora and Virginia rails is 25 in the aggregate.

Gallinules

Sept. 13-28, 2003 & Nov. 8-Dec. 31, 2003

Daily limit 15; Possession limit 30 after opening day.

Other migratory bird seasons

(Approved in July by Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission)

Mourning doves (70 days)

Sept. 6-14, 2003; Oct. 11-Nov. 23, 2003 & Dec. 20, 2003-Jan. 5, 2004

Daily limit 12; Possession limit 24 after opening day; (Note: Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the opening weekends of the three splits of the mourning dove season — Sept. 6-7, Oct. 11-12 & Dec. 20-21 — when hours are noon to sunset.)

Snipe (107 days)

Nov. 15, 2003-Feb. 29, 2004; Daily limit 8; Possession limit 16 after opening day

Woodcock (45 days)

Dec. 18, 2003-Jan. 31, 2004; Daily limit 3; Possession limit 6 after opening day

Advocate graphic

Setting bobcat season among LWFC's key items

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's agenda was filled with setting seasons Wednesday.

Besides ducks and geese, the commission acted on State Legislature mandates to open a bobcat season and also set the fall inshore shrimp, trapping and seasons for taking oysters from public grounds, see reservations and tonging areas.

• Setting a bobcat season came over the objections of the Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the Humane Society. LWRA spokesman Beau Gast said opening a season could lead to as many as 250,000 bobcats being taken during the upcoming season. The LWFC-approved plan al-

lowed a licensed deer hunter to take one bobcat during the deer season.

LSU wildlife professor Mike Chamberlain said his doctoral research was on bobcats and said Louisiana's new season is far more restrictive than Mississippi's open, no-bag-limit season on bobcats and "...from this type of season, it's most likely to end up...with 3,000 to 4,000 bobcats being taken a year."

• The fall inshore shrimp season will open at sunrise Aug. 11 in Zones 2 and 3, and on Aug. 18 in Zone 1. Zones 2 and 3 take in the coast from Southwest Pass to the Louisiana-Texas line. Zone 1 includes the waters from the Mississippi line to Southwest Pass. The only public comment came from

Zone 2 shrimpers in the Barataria Bay area who wanted an earlier open and earlier close for the spring and fall inside seasons.

• State wildlife manager Greg Linscombe said the 2002-03 Nutria Control Program worked and trappers earned slightly more than \$1.2 million for taking an additional 308,160 nutria. There was a \$4 bounty placed on the nuisance animal before the 2002 season. He said total value of the fur business in the state last year was \$1.5 million.

The LWFC approved a Nov. 20, 2003-March 31, 2004 trapping season, and the state will continue the \$4 nutria bounty.

• Modifying the proposed oyster season to help New Iberia area oys-

termen, the LWFC did away with a plan for a seed oyster-taking plan for Sister Lake and voted in a "seed and sacking" Sept. 10-Nov. 18 season for the big lake located in the central coast.

"Seed" oysters are three inches or less and oysters larger than that are considered "sacking" oysters.

A handful of oysterman said opening an 11-day "seed only" season opens the door for Texas oystermen to come to the area and take all the oysters from the grounds.

"They take everything the Texas boats (do) and all they have to do is transfer the oysters to their grounds, wait a week and sack up the larger oysters," New Iberia's

Joe Coletti said. "If you go back there after the 11 days, all you're sacking are shells and mud."

The vote established take on public grounds in Bay Gardene, the Lake Borgne area, Hackberry Bay, Bay Junop, Sister Lake and Calcasieu Lake, and closed seasons on grounds in Lakes Mechant, Tambour, Chien, Felicity, Deep and Sabine and in Barataria, Vermilion, Cote Blanche and Atchafalaya bays.

Also approved was the inclusion of a part of Little Lake that biologists expect to be affected early next year, when the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversign Project goes on line at the head of the Barataria area.

— Joe Macaluso

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Wednesday, August 6, 2003
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Terry Denmon (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Lee Felterman	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Bill Busbice	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Wayne Sagera	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Jerry Stone	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Henry Mouton	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
August 6, 2003
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
- ✓3. Commission Special Announcements
- ✓4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July - Keith LaCaze
- ✓5. Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition - Charlie Clark
- ✓6. Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns - Danny Timmer
- ✓7. Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons - Robert Helm
- ✓8. Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA - Tommy Prickett
- ✓9. Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA - Tommy Prickett
- ✓10. Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248 - Tommy Prickett
- ✓11. Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season
- ✓12. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003-2004 Trapping Season - Greg Linscombe
- ✓13. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season - Marty Bourgeois
- ✓14. Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef - Karen Foote
- ✓15. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas - Marty Bourgeois
- ✓16. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program - Vince Guillory
- ✓17. Set December 2003 Meeting Date
- ✓18. Public Comments
19. Adjournment

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

JULY 2003

REGION 1: MINDEN**PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
WEBSTER, RED RIVER,
DESOTO**

TOTAL CASES	109
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
54	Boating Safety
29	Angling W/O Resident License
2	Angling W/O License – Non-Resident
7	Fishing W/O Resident Cane Pole License
1	Take Game Fish Illegally
1	Take And/Or Possession Illegal Size Bass
1	Transport W/O Required License – Non-Resident
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
2	Resisting An Officer
2	Operate Vessel While Intoxicated
7	Littering
1	Obtain License By Fraud
1	Flight From An Officer

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating Safety
1	Angling W/O Resident License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 Black Bass (released); 1 Small Hoop Net; 11 Bream (released alive)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
54	Boating
1	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
7	Littering
7	Miscellaneous
40	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 2: MONROE**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, JACKSON,
LINCOLN, MOREHOUSE,
OUACHITA, RICHLAND,
UNION, W. CARROLL**

TOTAL CASES	95
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
51	Boating
5	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
13	Angle W/O A Resident License
4	Angle W/O A Non-resident License
7	Angle W/O Resident Pole License
6	Littering
2	Unlawful Possession Of Alcoholic Beverage
2	Sell Fish W/O A Retail License
1	Fail To Maintain Records
1	DWI (Boat)
1	Failure To Yield
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Driving Without An Operator's License

WRITTEN WARNINGS

TOTAL 14	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Violate Rules And Regulations of PWC
4	Expired Boat Registration Certificate
1	Operate Unregistered Motorboat
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Improper Boat Numbers
1	No Observer While Water Skiing
3	Angle W/O A Resident License
1	Fail To Comply With PFD Requirements

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3-Black Bass

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
52	Boating
3	Commercial Fishing
-0-	Federal Migratory

6	Littering
5	Miscellaneous
29	Recreational Fishing
-0-	State Hunting/Trapping
14	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance – Assisting Stranded Motorists and Boaters

REGION 3: ALEXANDRIA**PARISHES: AVOYELLES, GRANT
NATCHITOCHES,
RAPIDES, SABINE,
VERNON, WINN**

TOTAL CASES	123
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
55	Boating
25	Angling W/O A Resident License
6	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
1	Fishing W/O Resident Pole License
3	Possess O/L Gamefish (Bass)
2	Fail To Maintain Records
5	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2	Possession Spotted Fawn
1	Selling Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
1	Take Undersize Catfish W/Wire Net
2	Take Game Fish Illegally
14	Littering
1	Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
2	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Violate Open Container Law
1	Possession Of Alcohol Under 21

1	Trespass On State Property
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WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL -0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
41 Bass, 2 Fawns

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
55	Boating
4	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
14	Littering
6	Miscellaneous
42	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 4: FERRIDAY**PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA,
CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN,
LASALLE, MADISON, TENSAS**

TOTAL CASES	157
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
83	Boating Safety Violations
35	Angling W/O Resident License
7	Angling W/O Non-Resident License
15	Fishing W/O Pole License
2	Hunt Turkey Closed Season
3	Take Alligators Closed Season
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
1	Operating A Vessel While Intoxicated
1	Illegal Possession Of Drugs
4	Littering
3	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
1	Flight From An Officer
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	18	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5		Angling W/O A Resident License
1		Fishing W/O Pole License
12		Boating Safety Violations

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 Turkey; 2 Rifles; 2-5' Alligators; 14 Valiums;

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
83	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
4	Littering
10	Miscellaneous
57	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunting/Trapping
18	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 5: LAKE CHARLES**PARISHES: BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU,
EVANGELINE, ALLEN,
CAMERON, ACADIA,
VERMILION, JEFF DAVIS**

TOTAL CASES	198
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
68	Boating
60	Angling W/O A License
13	Angling W/O A License Non Resident
2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Required
4	Angling W/O A Saltwater License Non Resident
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2	Take Or Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout (Rec)
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum (Rec)
1	Take Or Possess Overlimit Black Drum (Rec)
1	Take Comm. Fish W/O Comm. Gear License (Shrimp)
2	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
1	Shed Soft Shell Crabs W/O Shedding License
12	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
15	Fail To Maintain Records

3	Blocking Passage Of Fish
3	Use Shrimp Net Closed Waters Hog Bayou – Trawl
1	Hunting Squirrels Closed Season
1	Illegal Possession Of Drugs Marijuana
1	Operate A Vessel While Intoxicated
2	Littering
2	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries Charges
1	Obtain License By Fraud

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
9	
1	No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession
1	Failure To Display Valid Certificate Decal
1	Improper Or No Sound Producing Device
1	Failure To Comply W/PFD Req.
5	Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
711 Lbs. Shrimp Sold For \$1,066.50; 200 Lbs. Shrimp Spoiled, Dumped In River; Receipts; Trip Tickets; 2 Cast Nets; 2-12' Nets; Statements; 11 Rods; 11 Reels; 1 Gaff Top; 1 Shark; 36 Frozen Flounder Destroyed; 16 Spotted Sea Trout Donated; 7 Undersize Spotted Sea Trout; 1 Res. Fishing License; 1 Res. Saltwater Fish License; 1 Expired Non/Res. Fishing License; 14 Black Drum Returned To Water; 1-12 Ga. Shotgun

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
68	Boating
37	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
85	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping
9	Written Warnings
1	DWI

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 6: OPELOUSAS**PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
PT. COUPEE, LAFAYETTE,
ST. LANDRY, ST. MARTIN,
W.B.R.**

TOTAL CASES	237
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
85	Boating
101	Angling W/O License In Possession
3	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
23	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Possess Firearm While Frogging
2	Littering
11	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
1	Operate Vessel While Intoxicated
2	Fail To Maintain Records
4	Angling W/O Non-Resident License
1	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
1	Misrepresentation During Issuance Of Misdemeanor

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 79	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
46	Boating
25	Angling W/O License
5	Use WMA W/O License Or Stamp
2	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
53 Black Bass, 1 Schnapps Bottle, 5 Rod And Reels

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
85	Boating
5	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
3	Miscellaneous
142	Recreational Fishing

0	State Hunting/Trapping
79	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 7: BATON ROUGE**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	198
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
124	Boating (4-DWI's)
37	Angling W/O Basic Resident License
3	Angling W/O Non-Resident Saltwater License
10	Angling W/O Non-Resident Basic License
2	No Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
1	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Take Undersize Shark
2	Transport W/O Required License
3	Tending Crabs Illegal Hours
3	Theft Of Crabs
2	Violate Rules And Regulations Of Scenic River
1	Littering
1	Violate State Lacy Act
2	Illegal Possession Of Alligators

1	Take Alligators At Night W/Firearm
1	Take Alligators Closed Season
1	Possession Of An Alligator W/O A Permit
2	Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
9	
6	Boating Safety Citations
3	Angling W/O License –Basic Residential

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
17 Dozen Crabs-Returned To Lake 2—Alligators-Released To Wild 1—Shark 1—Rifle 1—14' Boat W/35 HP Motor And Trailer (HQ Seizure Yard)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
124	Boating (4-DWI's)
7	Commercial Fishing

-	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
13	Miscellaneous
51	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
9	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL 15	DESCRIPTION
	Public Assistance: 8—Assist Motorists 7—Assist Boaters

REGION 8: NEW ORLEANS**PLAQUEMINE, ST. BERNARD,
ORLEANS, JEFFERSON,
ST. CHARLES**

TOTAL CASES	351
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
99	Boating
109	Angling W/O A License
15	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
3	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
7	Angling W/O Saltwater License
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Non-Resident License
2	Possess Over 10 Red Drum
4	Possess O/L Of Red Drum In Excess of 27"(Recreational)
3	Take Or Possess Red Drum In Federal Waters
4	Fail To Have Fish Intact(Saltwater)
2	Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum(Recreational) 16" Minimum
7	Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout
2	Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum(Recreational) Commission Action
4	Commission Rules And Regs. Shark(Recreational)
1	Commission Rules And Regs. Misc. Grouper(Recreational)
1	Commission Rules And Regs. Misc. Amberjack

2	Commission Rules and Regs. Tuna
2	Take Or Possess O/L Spotted Sea Trout (On Water)
1	Obtain License Or Engage In Activity During Revocation Period
1	Not Abiding By Commission Rules and Regulations Comm. Finfish
3	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
2	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
2	Retail Dealer, Restaurant, Retail Grocery Buy Fish From Other Than Wholesale/Retail Dealer
1	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O A Retail Seafood Dealers License
2	Transport W/O Required License
1	Fail To Comply W/Aquaculture Fish Regs.
2	Buy Fish From Unlicensed Non-Resident Dealer
6	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
8	Removing Contents From Crab Traps
1	Set Crab Traps In Nav. Channels
1	Take/Possess Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License (Captains Only)
1	Theft Of Crab Trap
6	Trawling In Closed Season
2	Use Oversize Trawl, Trawl Board
2	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
3	Failure To Have Written Permission

16	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
5	Unlawfully Take Oysters From A Private Lease
1	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
1	Violate Sanitation Code Log Book
1	Hunting W/O Resident License
1	Possess Live Wild Quadrupeds W/O Permit
1	Possession Of Live Alligators W/O Permit
2	Possess Firearm While Frogging
1	Operating A Vessel While Intoxicated
4	Littering
1	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
2	Misrepresentation During Issuance Of Misdemeanor Summons
1	Violation Of Sanitation Code-Chapter 9 (Vessel Regulations)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 34	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
8	Boating
21	Angling W/O A License
1	Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout
3	Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum
1	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
Returned To Water...Spotted Sea Trout(2)...Oyster Sacks(381)...Crabs(37, 3 ½ Boxes)...Red Drum(2)...Bullfrogs(2)...Raccoon(1)...Alligator(1)...Seafood(25 lbs.) Destroyed...Shark(1) Donated...Spotted Sea Trout (99)...Crabs(70 Lbs.)...Sharks(4)...Black Drum(4)...Red Drum (40)...Amberjack(1)...Red Drum Fillets(6)...Trout Fillets(1 Bag)...Yellowfin Tuna(2)...Aquatic Sealife(10 Lbs.)...Mangrove Grouper(4)...Seafood(25 Lbs.) Hardware Confiscated...Skimmer Nets(2)...Rod And Reels(3)...Crab Traps(8)... Ice Chest(1)...Dredges(2)	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
99	Boating
71	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
4	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
168	Recreational Fishing
5	State Hunting/Trapping
34	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
14	Public Assistance

REGION 9: SCHRIEVER

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, ST. JAMES
ST. JOHN, ST. MARY,
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE,
JEFFERSON, GRAND ISLE,
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	238
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
99	Boating
42	Angling W/O A Basic License
2	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
5	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
6	Angling W/O Saltwater License
2	Take Red Drum Federal Waters (Violate Commission Rules)
2	Possession Of Alcohol By Persons Under 21 Years Of Age
3	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gill Net Gear License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Trawl Gear License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Pipes Gear License
2	Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel license
1	Restaurant Buying Fish From Other Than Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer
1	Fail To Maintain Records
10	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1	Removing Contents Of Crab Traps
4	Violate Crab Trap Escape Ring Requirements
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License
2	Tending Crab Traps Illegal Hours
2	Use Illegal Length Gill Nets
1	Failure To Mark Freshwater Nets
7	Theft Of Crab Trap
1	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
22	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
3	Failure To Have Written Permission
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
5	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
2	Unlawful Taking Of Oysters Off A Private Lease
1	Take Oysters Closed Season
1	Possessing Alligators Closed Season
2	Possession Of Live Alligators W/O Permit
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 25	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
20	Boating

4	Angling Without A Basic License
1	Angling Without Saltwater License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
4 Red Drum, 4 Catfish, 445 Lbs. Crabs, 163 Sacks Oysters, 2,188 Lbs. Shrimp Sold For \$2,084.05, 30 Lbs. Shrimp Released, 3 Alligators, 577 Lbs. Shad, 1 Black Bass, 13 Boats And Motors Paper Seizures, 1 Boat And Motor Physically Seized, 2 Oyster Dredges, 20 Skimmer Nets, 40 Crab Traps, 6 Shrimp Baskets, 2 Rods And Reels, 5 Gill Nets, 1 Truck Paper Seizure, 1 Boat Trailer Paper Seizure, 9 Receipts Of Purchase, 1 Commercial License, 1 PVC Pipe	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
99	Boating
77	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
2	Miscellaneous
57	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunting/Trapping
25	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
17	Public Assistance

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE**COASTAL WATERS**

TOTAL CASES	33
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Boating
2	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease
3	Failure To Have Written Permission
12	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
5	Take Oysters From An Unapproved Area
1	Take Oysters Closed Season
1	Angling W/O A Basic License Resident
1	Angling W/O A Basic License Non-Resident
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0		

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
211 Sacks Of Oysters, 2 Skimmer Nets, 6 Oyster Dredges, 50 Lbs. Of Shrimp.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Boating
25	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
3	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	17
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Buy/Sell Fish W/O A Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License
3	Retail dealer, Buy Fish From Other Than Wholesale/Retail Detailer
7	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Transport W/O Required License
2	Fail To Mark Crab Containers
2	Violate Interstate Shipping Regulations(Lacey Act)
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL -0-	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2-Crates Of Live Crabs (returned to water)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
17	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

S.W.E.P.

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	12
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Boating
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Commission Rules-Finching Sharks
2	Commission Rules-Possession Of Red Drum Federal Waters
1	Commission Rules-Possession Of Undersized Grouper
1	Commission Rules-Failure To Keep Shark Intact
1	Commission Rules-Possession Overlimit Of Shark
1	Angling W/O Basic License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	
2	Angling W/O Basic License
1	Failure To Comply With Visual Distress Signal
1	Improper Fire Extinguisher

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 Gill Net, 386 Lbs. Of Shrimp Sold For \$364.90, 41 Lbs. Of Shark Fins Sold For \$433.00, 7 Red Drum, 2 Sharks, 1 Grouper

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Boating
7	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
1	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REFUGE PATROL

MARSH ISLAND, ROCKEFELLER,
STATE WILDLIFE

TOTAL CASES	53
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
3	Angling W/O A License
1	Violate Recreation Gear License
14	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations On WMA
1	Commission Rules and Regulations (Cobia)
2	Commission Rules and Regulations (Red Snapper)
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
1	Take Alligators W/O License
1	Illegal Possession Of Alligators, Eggs, Skins
1	Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road
2	Littering

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	5	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2		Angling W/O A Saltwater License
2		Fail To Comply With Visual Distress Signals
1		Fail To Display Valid Certificate Decal

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1-20 Gauge Rifle, 1-8 Ft. Alligator, 1-30 In. Cobia, 9-Red Snapper, 1-Empty Bottle Of Water, 2-Cans Coors Light Beer, Approx. 3 Lbs. Shrimp, 1-Partial Bottle Schnapps, 1-Partial Bottle Vodka, 87 Crabs.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION REFUGE PATROL

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
2	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
15	Miscellaneous
8	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
5	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Public Assistance(Towed in vessels, assisted with a broken down vessel)

TOTAL CASES: 1,706

WRITTEN WARNINGS: 192

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: 71

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
JULY, 2003

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 31.5

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 19.6

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 12.5

Enforcement Hours - 46.6

Other Divisions - 17.0

Total Plane Use - 63.6

Cases Made In Conjunction With Aircraft Use Resulted In Citations Issued For:

1-No Vessel License

1-No Gear License

3-Skimmers Closed Season

5-Total

Confiscations: 4-Skimmer Nets, 1,000 Lbs. Shrimp

LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: DeGraff, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 3:54 PM
To: Burke, Marianne
Subject: LDWF Region 3 News (August 5, 2003)

NEWS FROM THE LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

The Public Information Section of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is responsible for the distribution of LDWF news releases and the department's biweekly newsletter.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following Public Information Section staff members:

Thomas Gresham
Media Relations Manager
(gresham_tp@wlf.state.la.us)

Jeffrey DeGraff
Public Information Officer
(degraff_ja@wlf.state.la.us)

2003-218

SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN BAITED DOVE FIELD CASE

Nine Louisiana men were tried and found guilty of federal migratory game bird regulation violations on July 15 in Federal Court in Alexandria. The charges stemmed from a September 7, 2002, illegal dove hunt in the southwestern portion of Grant Parish.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents were investigating reports of illegal bait being placed in fields prior to the opening of the September 2002 segment of mourning dove season. They found the men hunting the illicit field. Wheat, sunflower seed and cracked corn had been placed in the field. A total of 83 mourning doves were seized in connection with the case.

A tenth man, Larry W. Lester, Jr., 27, of Montgomery, pled guilty to the charge of hunting migratory game birds with the aid of bait at a February 13 arraignment hearing. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$625, plus \$10 to the criminal victim fund. The remaining nine men had entered pleas of "not guilty" to the charges.

United States Federal Magistrate for the Western District of Louisiana, James D. Kirk found the men guilty of all charges and sentenced them as follows: For hunting migratory game birds with the aid of bait, Curtis Joseph Allen, 57, of Montgomery, Travis H. Vallee, 30, of Colfax, Chad Thomisee, 28, of Montgomery, Derrick Bruce Thomisee, 30, of Montgomery, John Scott James, 42, of Boyce, Jeremy P. McCain, 19, of Dry Prong, John Steven McCain, 26, of Colfax, Wilmet Sandlin McCain, 51, of Dry Prong and John T. McCain, 54, of Baton Rouge were each ordered to pay a \$500 fine plus \$10 to the criminal victim fund.

Allen and Vallee were also found guilty of possessing over the limit of mourning doves and each was ordered to pay an additional \$200 fine, plus \$10 to the criminal victim fund. Vallee was also found

guilty of aiding and abetting others in the taking of migratory game birds over bait by the placement of bait and sentenced to pay a \$1,000 fine, plus \$10 to the criminal victim fund. He was placed on unsupervised probation for a period of three years with the condition of probation that he may not hunt during the entire probationary period. In his instructions to Vallee regarding the probation, Magistrate Kirk said "When I say no hunting, I mean nowhere in the world."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christina Walker. Counsel for the Defense was Mr. Taylor Townsend.

Officers participating in the case were Major Keith LaCaze, Captain Peter Oliver, Sergeants Eric Stokes and Marcus Constance and Senior Agents Travis Burnett and Kevin Hill.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

-30-

LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: DeGraff, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 3:53 PM
To: Burke, Marianne
Subject: LDWF Region 6 News (August 5, 2003)

NEWS FROM THE LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

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2003-219

HENDERSON BAY ANGLERS CITED FOR UNDERSIZED BASS

From July 6-11, 10 anglers were cited by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents for taking illegal size black bass from Henderson Bay.

Agents patrolling the bay in St. Martin Parish cited Chris Fletcher, 50, of Baker, Cecil Morvant Jr., 42, of Carencro, Charles Morris, 44, of Duson, Adam Higginbotham, 24, of Opelousas, Samuel Green II, 34, of Arnaudville, Jerry Balentine, 40, of Baton Rouge, and Roosevelt Gordon Jr., 69, Larry Hurst 68, Christopher Overton 38 and Michael Babineaux Jr. 24, all of Lafayette for allegedly taking illegal size black bass.

The legal size limit for black bass on Henderson Bayou and the Atchafalaya Basin is 14 inches. A total of 24 black bass were seized and released back in the lake.

Taking illegal sized black bass is a Class 2 violation which carries a penalty of up to \$350 in fines, jail not more than 60 days, or both, plus court costs.

Agents participating in the cases were Sgts. Steven Huval, Mitch Darby, Brad Garon and Senior Agents Brad Guidroz, Chris Carpenter, Brian Theriot and Cliff Ortis.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: DeGraff, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 3:53 PM
To: Burke, Marianne
Subject: LDWF Region 8 News (August 5, 2003)

NEWS FROM THE LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

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Jeffrey DeGraff
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(degraff_ja@wlf.state.la.us)

2003-220

BRIDGE CITY MAN ARRESTED FOR DWI

Alfred C. Boffone, 47, of Bridge City, has been arrested by agents of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division for allegedly driving a motorboat while intoxicated (BUI). He was booked into the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center on July 19.

Agents patrolling the Barataria Waterway in Jefferson Parish stopped Mr. Boffone's vessel to perform a boating safety compliance check. Mr. Boffone exhibited signs of intoxication, and performed poorly on field sobriety tests. The agents arrested Mr. Boffone and charged him with violating Revised Statue Title 14:98D, driving while intoxicated, third offense.

The penalty for driving a motorboat while intoxicated, third offense, is imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than five years, and a fine of \$2000. In addition, the vehicle/vessel used during the incident will be subject to seizure by the court.

Agents participating in the investigation were Senior Agents Eddie Skena, Rachel Zechenelly, and Jason Russo.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

2003-221

GRAND ISLE FISHERMAN ARRESTED FOR CLOSED SEASON SHRIMPING

A Grand Isle man, James Billiot, 38, was arrested on July 14 for using skimmer nets to catch shrimp during the closed shrimp season for inside waters. Agents from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife

and Fisheries Enforcement Division allegedly observed Billiot using a flatboat equipped with skimmer nets at night in Thunder Bayou in Jefferson Parish. The shrimp season for this portion of Zone 2 closed June 20, 2003 at 6:00 a.m.

The agents encountered Billiot at about 9:30 p.m. while he was engaged in skimming for shrimp. The agents report that Billiot was fishing for live bait shrimp, which he intended to sell. The agents also claim that Billiot stated that he was shrimping to pay fines levied against him by the Lafourche Parish Court for other wildlife related offenses. A computer check of Billiot showed that he had been recently released from the Lafourche Parish Jail after serving a sentence imposed regarding earlier wildlife crimes. A criminal history check shows that the LDWF Enforcement Division has cited Billiot 54 times since 1980 for wildlife related crimes.

Billiot was booked into the Grand Isle Jail and later transported to the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center in Gretna. His two skimmer nets were seized as evidence in this case.

Using skimmer nets in closed season is a Class 4 offense for which the penalty is a fine of up to \$750, up to 120 days in jail, or both, plus court costs and forfeiture of anything seized in connection with the offense.

Agents involved in this case were Sr. Agt. Chad Hebert and Sr. Agt. Thomas Dewitt.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

2003-222

AGENTS ARREST SPORT FISHING CHARTER GUIDE

Agents from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division have completed a lengthy investigation that led to the arrest of James P. Ryan, 45, of Dallas Texas, for allegedly failing to have saltwater fin fish intact and six felony violations involving license fraud and theft.

The investigation began when agents stopped Ryan in early June in Plaquemines Parish, and found charter boat regulation violations and 28 pounds of fish filets on board his vessel on a paid trip. A further investigation followed, and agents determined that over a two year period, Ryan had purchased resident charter guide licenses and did not meet the criteria to have the resident privileges and costs. Ryan's residence is established in Dallas, Texas, and he operates a sport fishing charter guide service out of Venice, Louisiana. The estimated value of theft against the state in license costs is \$1,650.

On July 17, agents executed an arrest warrant in Plaquemines Parish and Ryan was booked into jail for the filet violation and as a fugitive from East Baton Rouge Parish, where he will answer to the felony license fraud and theft violations.

Agents participating in the investigation were Capt. Brian Clark, Lt. Robert Martin, Lt. Pete Bordes, Sgt. Glen Jackson, Senior Agents David Nunez, Ronnie Granier, Adam Young and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Stephen Clark and Refuge Officer Mike Downie.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: DeGraff, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 3:53 PM
To: Burke, Marianne
Subject: LDWF Region 9 News (August 5, 2003)

NEWS FROM THE LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

The Public Information Section of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is responsible for the distribution of LDWF news releases and the department's biweekly newsletter.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following Public Information Section staff members:

Thomas Gresham
Media Relations Manager
(gresham_tp@wlf.state.la.us)

Jeffrey DeGraff
Public Information Officer
(degraff_ja@wlf.state.la.us)

2003-223

WEEKEND OYSTER FISHERMEN CITED FOR TAKING OYSTERS FROM POLLUTED WATERS

Agents of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division's Oyster Strike Force cited five men on Sunday, July 27, for taking oysters from a polluted area in Terrebonne Parish. A boat occupied by the five was spotted dredging in area closed to harvest near Bayou Sale. The occupants of the vessel were identified as Samuel Dobson, 23, of Houma, Joseph Fitch, 20, of Dularge, Milivoj Marinkovic, 45, of Texas City, Texas, Juan Cervantes, 37, of New Iberia, and Ekrem Hyseni, 23, of San Leon, Texas.

All five subjects were issued citations for taking oysters from an unapproved area. Approximately 70 sacks of oysters seized and returned to the water.

The penalty for taking oysters from an unapproved area is a fine of up to \$750, up to 120 days in jail, or both, plus court costs and forfeiture of any seized items.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

2003-224

TWO MEN CITED FOR CLOSED SEASON SHRIMPING IN LAFOURCHE PARISH

Agents from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division cited two men on July 16 for allegedly shrimping in closed season in Lafourche Parish.

Agents patrolling after dark in southwest Lafourche Parish in Little Grand Bay saw a vessel

shrimping with skimmer nets. Shrimp season had closed on June 20 in this area. Rodney P Verdin, 34, of Marrero, and Michael S. Dick, 44, of Avondale, were on board the boat and were cited for skimming in closed season.

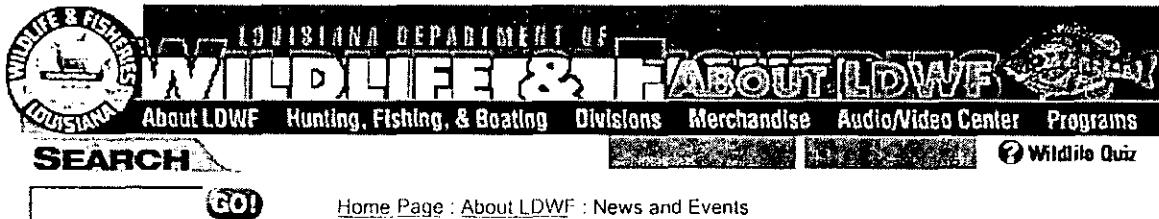
The shrimp in the nets were returned to the water, and two skimmer nets were seized in connection with the violation.

Using skimmer nets in closed season is punishable by a fine of up to \$750, jail for not more than 120 days or both, plus court costs and forfeiture of anything seized.

Agents participating in the case were Sergeants Bryan Marie and Stephen McManus.

EDITORS: For more information, contact Maj. Keith LaCaze at 225/765-2469 (lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us).

-30-



Home Page : [About LDWF](#) : News and Events

2003-232 N.W.T.F. AWARDS SHOTGUNS TO HUNTERS

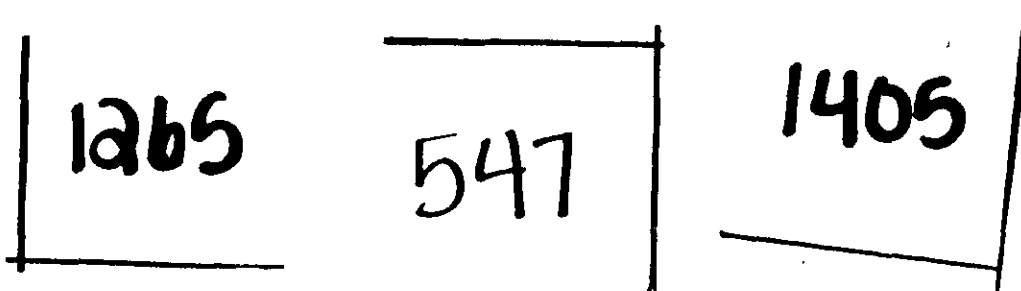
8/7/2003

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission participated in a drawing to award shotguns to hunters who participate in the wild turkey check station program. The National Wild Turkey Federation encourages the use of check stations by turkey hunters by awarding shotguns to three individuals each year. Hunters are asked to voluntarily bring the turkeys they've taken to check stations located all across the state. At the stations, the birds are weighed and measured. The information collected is very valuable to biologists from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and NWTF. The stop at the station can be valuable to the hunter as well, as they are entered into the drawing for the shotguns.

At the August 6 meeting of the LWFC, Chairman Terry Denmon drew the three names of the hunters that will receive a Remington 870 Supermagnum shotgun. The first winner is Nolan Bounds of Washington Parish. Bounds checked an 18-pound turkey he killed on Ben's Creek Wildlife Management Area. The next winner was Clint Stephenson of Dubac. He checked a 19.5 pound bird with a 9.25 inch beard. Finally, David Dillion of Angie was announced as the third winner. He checked a bird that weighed 17 pounds and had a 9.25 inch beard.

Danny Timmer, an LDWF turkey biologist representing the NWTF, made the presentation to the commission and also announced that this would be the last year for the drawings. LDWF will now use a mail-out survey to collect harvest information from hunters.

For more information, contact Danny Timmer at 337/487-5890
timmer_d@wlf.state.la.us



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
August 6, 2003

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington DC, and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

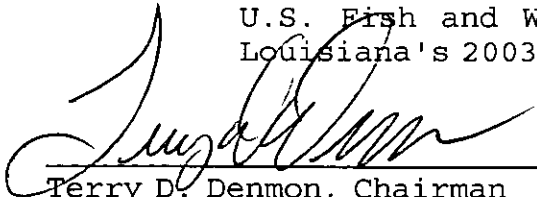
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and


WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that on this date, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these tentative dates will be ratified by Declaration of Emergency unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 2003-2004 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.


Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission


James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

TENTATIVE SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR DUCKS, COOTS AND GEESE, 2003-04

DUCKS AND COOTS: (EXCEPT PINTAIL AND CANVASBACK)

West Zone: (60 days) Nov. 8 (Sat.) - Nov. 30 (Sun.) (23 days)
 Dec. 13 (Sat.) - Jan. 18 (Sun.) (37 days)

East Zone: (60 days) Nov. 15 (Sat.) - Nov. 30 (Sun.) (16 days)
(Including Catahoula Dec. 13 (Sat.) - Jan. 25 (Sun.) (44 days)
Lake)

Pintail Season Dates (30 days)

West Zone: Nov. 8 (Sat.) - Nov. 30 (Sun.) (23 days)
 Dec. 13 (Sat.) - Dec. 19 (Fri) (7 days)
East Zone: Nov. 15 (Sat.) - Nov. 30 (Sat.) (16 days)
 Dec. 13 (Sat.) - Dec. 26 (Fri.) (14 days)

Canvasback Season Dates (30 days)

West Zone: Dec. 20 (Sat.) - Jan. 18 (Sun.)
East Zone: Dec. 27 (Sat.) - Jan. 25 (Sun.)

Youth Waterfowl Weekend - Nov. 1-2 in West Zone, Nov. 8-9 in East Zone

Daily Bag Limits

The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 3 scaup, and 2 redheads. During the specified 30-day seasons for pintails and canvasbacks and during youth hunts the daily bag is 1. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers - The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit - The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

GEESE:

LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE and ROSS') and WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

STATEWIDE: (86 days) **Nov. 1 (Sat.) - Nov. 30 (Sun.) (30 days)**
 Dec. 13 (Sat.) - Feb. 6 (Fri.) (56 days)

Daily bag limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'): 20
Possession limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'): None

Daily Limit on white-fronted geese: 2
Possession Limit on white-fronted geese: 4

CANADA GEESE: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW

Jan. 17 (Sat.) - Jan. 25 (Sun.) (9 days)

Daily Limit on Canada geese: 1
Possession limit on Canada geese: 2

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows:

Beginning at the Texas State Line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with LA Hwy. 82, then south along LA Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas State Line, then north to the point of beginning at LA Hwy. 82.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the **Canada Goose Season**. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any license vendor.

CONSERVATION ORDER FOR LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE AND ROSS')

STATEWIDE: Dec. 1 (Mon.) - Dec. 12 (Fri.) (12 days)
 Feb. 7 (Sat.) - Mar. 7 (Sun.) (30 days)

Only snow, blue and Ross' geese may be taken under the terms of the Conservation Order, which allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and eliminates

the daily bag and possession limits. During the Conservation Order, shooting hours begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset.

RAILS: Nov. 8 (Sat.) - Dec.31 (Wed.) (54 days)

KING AND CLAPPER: Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 30.

SORA AND VIRGINIA: Daily bag and possession 25 in the aggregate.

GALLINULES: Nov. 8 (Sat.) - Dec. 31(Wed.) (54 days)

Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 30

Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 16

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.

TERRY D. DENMON
P.O. BOX 8460
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71211-8460
Telephone: 318-388-1422
Fax: 318-361-5036

July 24, 2003

TO: Phil Bowman, Assistant Secretary
Office of Wildlife
Via fax @ 225-765-0948

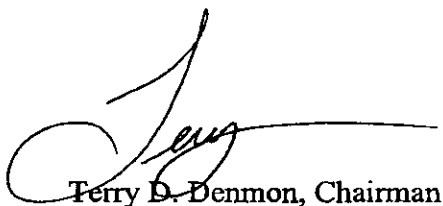
Tommy Prickett, Administration
Wildlife Division
Via fax @ 225-763-5453

The attached is the second group of significant hunters who have contacted me wanting the duck season in northeast and north central portion of the state, earlier rather than later.

Basically, they would rather have most of December and early January rather than late January.

I would ask you to consider this in your recommendation to the Commission for the August meeting.

Call me if we need to talk. Thanks.



Terry D. Denmon, Chairman

Attachment

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Mr. Denmon:

A group of very concerned duck hunters, including myself, Billy Haddad, Jerry Hightower, and Kenny Cagle decided to canvas a number of northeast Louisiana's most avid duck hunters to get their opinions on the best days to set the 2003-2004 duck season. The question was only for the east zone and if we get 60 days and 6 ducks. When the canvas was done we came up with this best case scenario.

Duck Season: November 15 to November 30
December 6 to January 18, 2004

A total of 60 days

The hunters that were canvased included:

Lee Williams
Johnny Woodward
David Daniels
John Ensminger, Jr.
Bob Sale
Dickie Culpepper
Ralph Brockman
Johnny Hudson
Tex Kilpatrick
Sam Trinca
Butch Ditta
Gordon Markie
Conrad Mott
Joe Files
Tommy Grant
Jeff Simmons
Jim Brown
Rusty Benton
Richard Benton
Scott Beaman
Jim Rolfe
Stacy Copeland

Ray Newman
Jasper Haddad
Dickie Crowe
Lloyd Salter
Tom Dansby
Harderman Cordell
Sherman Shaw
Shane Bridges
Kent Anderson
Barre Tanguis
John Boy Ditta
Woodard Mott
Tommy Barham
Jim Rundell
Steve Dade
Sidney Wilhite
Ben Peters
Mike Benton
Kim Benton
Keith Evans
Pete Rolfe
Edward Greer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2003						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2003						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2004						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2004						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING THE
TANGIPAHOA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has entered into a ten-year lease agreement with the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, for certain tracts or parcels of land situated in the parish of Tangipahoa, consisting of approximately 994 acres, and more specifically described in Attachment A and locally known as the Husser Tract (647.12 acres) and Loranger Tract (346.89 acres).

WHEREAS, this property contains valuable wildlife habitat, the protection and proper management of which is important to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts.

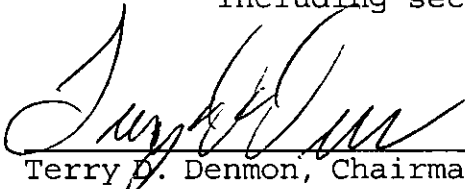
WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance wildlife habitat in the state and provide for public use and recreational opportunities on these lands that they be established as a wildlife management area to be called the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby select, in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Section 781 et seq. of the Revised Statutes of 1954, the land described above, comprised of 994 acres, more or less, to be established as a Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection, conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and such public recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, bird watching, and trapping, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of establishing the

Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area,
including securing and signing all legal documents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry D. Denmon", written over a horizontal line.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James W. Jenkins, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

James W. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

Attachment A.

Certain tracts or parcels of land within Tangipahoa Parish, more particularly described as:

346.89 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 8 E; and

647.12 acres located in Sec. 16, T 4 S, R 9 E.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule.

2003-2004 Hunting Regulations

Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife Management Area (Region 7): (Loranger Tract: 346.89 acres) and (Husser Tract: 647.12 acres)

Self-Clearing Permits Required.

Deer: Same as outside **except** still hunt only.

Small Game: Same as outside **except** beagles permitted January 26-February 29; squirrel dogs permitted January 26-February 8

Raccoon (Nighttime): January 26-February 29

No ATVs. Walk-in only.

Horseback Riding: Organized trail rides prohibited. Riding allowed only on designated roads and trails. Horses and mules are specifically prohibited during turkey and gun seasons for deer.

Contact Wildlife Division, Region 7 for maps and specific information.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to establish the hunting season for Tangipahoa Parish School Board Wildlife

Management Area. A lease agreement was recently completed on the tracts and as such was not included with the original Notice of Intent.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

BOBCAT HUNTING PROPOSAL AUGUST 2003

BACKGROUND

- Bobcat is a member of the Felidae family related to the house cat and the lynx.
- Densities are highly dependent on habitat conditions and prey abundance ranging from 0.2 to 6.7 bobcats per square mile in the Southeast U.S.
- Males are incapable of breeding their first year.
- Females can breed during their first year, however studies indicate most females may not have a successful litter until second year.
- Breeding occurs in mid winter. 62 day gestation period with 1 to 4 in litter.
- Highly carnivorous preying mainly on rodents and rabbits. Use of deer appears to be mainly as carrion.
- Home ranges of bobcats may range from 741 to 6,000 acres across the southeast.

LOUISIANA

- Bobcat was classified as outlaw quadruped prior to 1978 and could be harvested by a licensed hunter at any time except at night.
- In 1978 they were reclassified as a non-game quadruped (furbearer) and could be harvested only by trapping during the open trapping season.
- Harvest in Louisiana peaked in the late 1970's and early 1980's with high fur prices (see graph).
- Harvest also peaked in adjacent states during the same general period. (see graph)
- The fur harvest in Louisiana was generally equal to or greater than adjacent states.

HABITAT RESEARCH

- During the late 1970's and early 1980's scent station surveys were conducted throughout the state (excluding the coast).
- Objectives of the 5 year study were to determine relative abundance of bobcat and relate these indices to geographical regions and habitat types.

- Biologists/technicians ran twenty-nine; 50 mile long surveys, randomly selected within geographic region.
- 1,450 stations were visited on 2 consecutive nights.
- South Central region had the highest visitation rate (9.4%). In this region bottomland hardwood – 12.1% and pasture/recent clearcuts – 10.6%.
- Southeast region had a 6% visitation rate. Bottomland hardwood combined with mixed pine – hardwood – 10%, recent clearcuts – 4.2%.
- Northwest region had a 4% visitation rate. Bottomland hardwood 10.6% and recent clearcuts was 6.1%.
- Northeast region was the lowest with 1.9%.
- Visitation confirmed data from other researchers concerning bobcat preference.

HABITAT TRENDS

- Since mid 1980's over 100,000 acres of agricultural land in the Northeast region have been put back into bottomland hardwoods as a result of federal programs (WRP and CRP). This has greatly enhanced bobcat habitat in this region.
- In pine and mixed pine -- hardwood regions management practices have reduced rotation age. This means younger stands and earlier thinnings resulting in better habitat and prey base for bobcats.
- Based on habitat condition and relatively low harvest (10%) of historic harvest bobcat populations are higher than 20-25 years ago.

HARVEST SEASON IN ADJACENT STATES

- Mississippi – Opossum, Raccoon, and Bobcat – November 1, 2003 – February 28, 2004 (for food, sport, and pelt). No limit
Hunter harvest 2000-2001 – 4,630;
2001-2002 – 3,482. Taken mainly by deer hunters (150,000 licensed deer hunters).
- Arkansas – Bobcat – September 1, 2003 – February 29, 2004. Limit: 2 Daily

HUNTING IMPACT

- Louisiana has slightly more hunters now as compared to 1970's. Hunters could take bobcat anytime, no season (closed at night) prior to 1978. Trapping harvest was at an all time high.
- If harvest in Mississippi (2000-2001 - 4,630; 2001 – 2002 - 3,482) is largely opportunistic, then Louisiana hunters might be expected to harvest a similar number of bobcat assuming populations are similar. A limit of 1 per season may not be much different than no limit. A small percentage of hunters will have an opportunity to shoot and a smaller percentage will shoot and retrieve a cat.

HARVEST MONITORING

- Include these questions in big game survey.
 1. Did you see a bobcat?
 2. Did you shoot at a bobcat?
 3. Did you retrieve a bobcat?
 4. Parish hunted
 5. Habitat hunted – hardwood, mixed pine hardwood, pine agriculture/pasture
- Also could incorporate bobcat question into archery survey. This is used to monitor several furbearer species in a number of states. Considered better quality data than gun hunters.

BOBCAT HARVEST IN LOUISIANA AND ADJACENT STATES DURING SEASONS WITH HIGH HARVEST 1973-1983

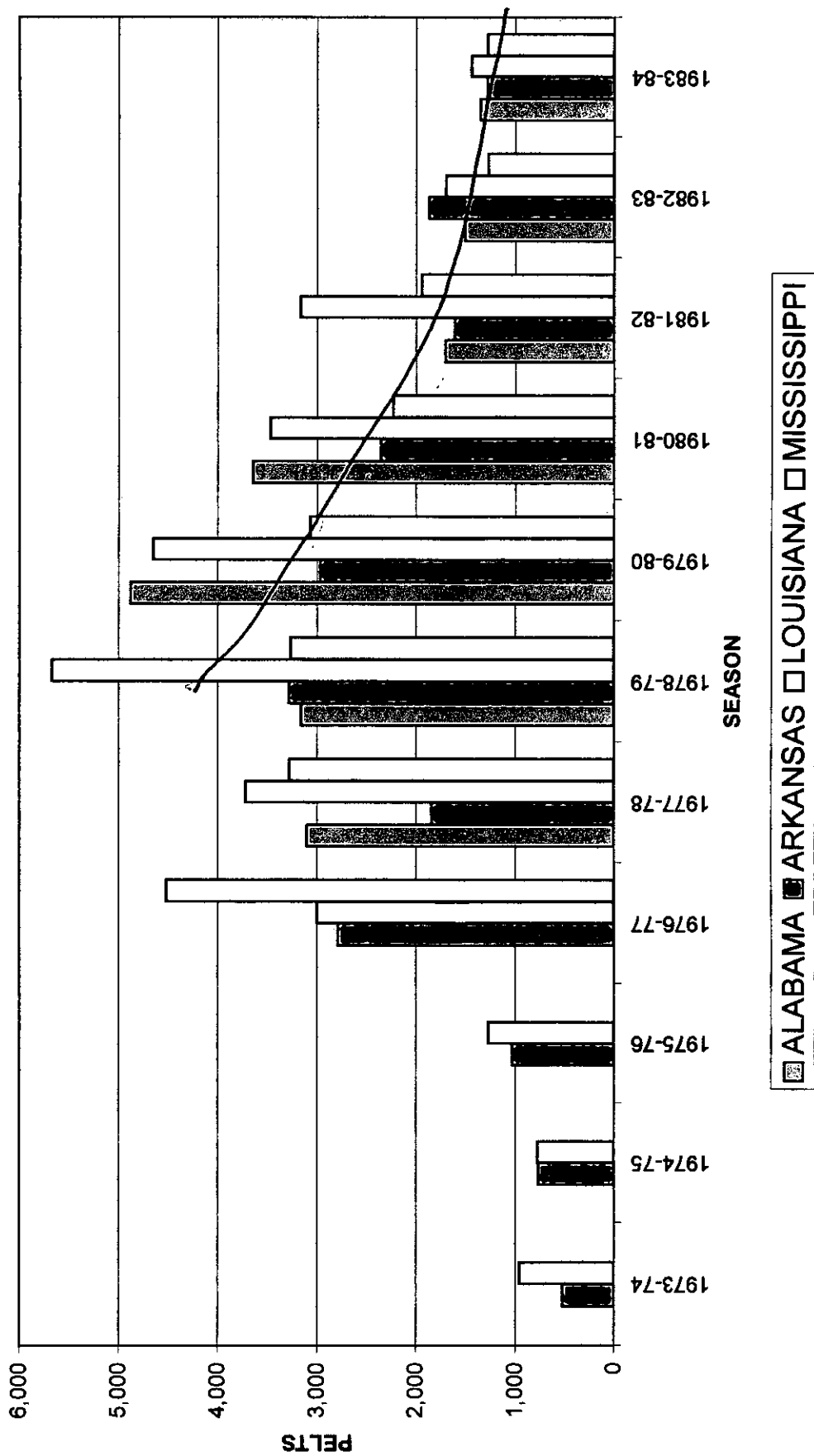


Chart1

LOUISIANA BOBCAT HARVEST AND PRICE

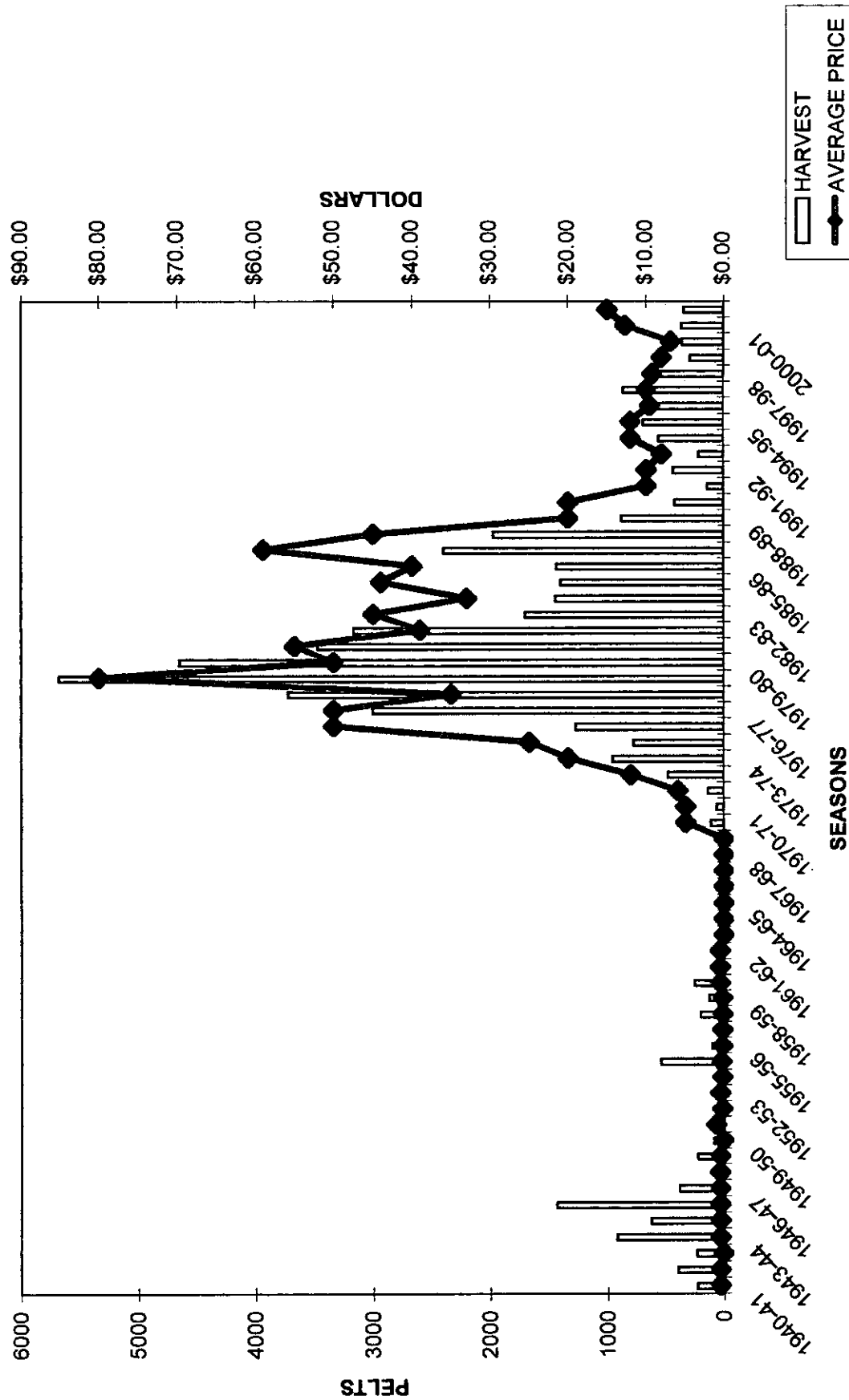
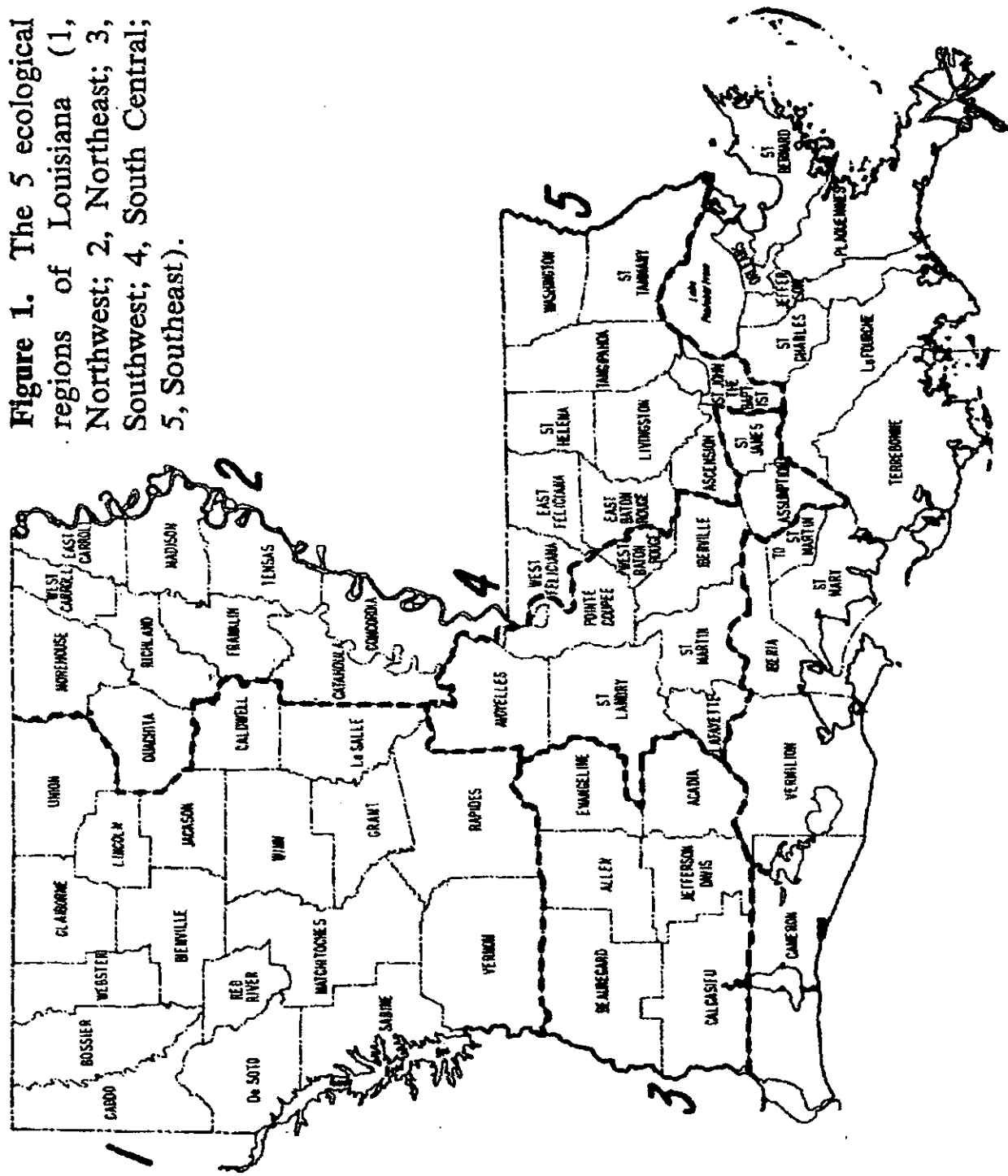


Figure 1. The 5 ecological regions of Louisiana (1, Northwest; 2, Northeast; 3, Southwest; 4, South Central; 5, Southeast).



Hawkins, Susan

From: Beau Gast [beaugast@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 11:40 PM
To: bgast@lawraonline.com
Subject: To: LWFC Commissioners Re: Bobcat Hunting



Attachment
information.



LDWF Commission
Meeting BOBCAT...

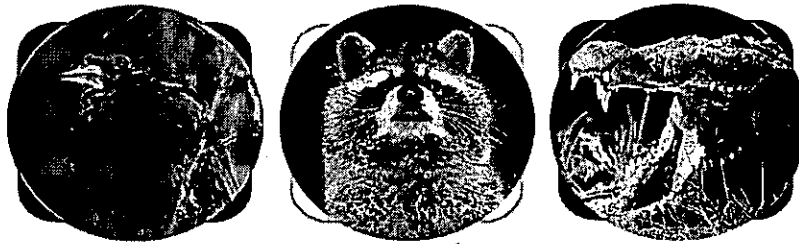
To whom it may concern:

This e-mail is to inform you of the Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association position on the bobcat hunting season on the LWFC agenda, item number 10. We ask that you vote against a season at this time. The position paper is attached in Microsoft Word format and is 180k large. Hard copies may be obtained from me personally at the meeting. Those of you with fax machines listed will receive this via fax as well.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me via cell phone Wednesday morning at 985-789-1061. I plan to be at the meeting area around 9:30 A.M.

Thank you,

Beau E. Gast
Director of Communications, Public Relations
Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
<http://www.lawraonline.com>
bgast@lawraonline.com
985-789-1061 / 985-796-9679



Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Promoting Communication, Cooperation, Professionalism, and Ethical Conduct

August 5, 2003

Re: Declaration of Emergency – Bobcat season as authorized by Act 1248

The Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (LAWRA), as well as the Humane Society of the United States, The Fund For Animals, Humane Society of Louisiana, and others with a concern for bobcats in Louisiana are opposed to the authorization of a bobcat hunt this quickly and without any biological evidence to assure species protection.

The official Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association position is as follows:

1. LAWRA maintains that an accurate management goal is to “maintain, conserve, and promote sustainable bobcat populations in regions of Louisiana that provide suitable habitat conditions and provide recreational opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive users of bobcats”. This is defined later in this document.
2. LAWRA will support only a 3-4 year study of bobcat in Louisiana with a temporary moratorium on seasons until accurate biological data can be obtained. This includes, but will not be limited to, a big game survey statewide. This also includes ongoing field research to better understand factors affecting bobcat density and distribution and to monitor changes in the Louisiana bobcat population.
3. When accurate biological data is obtained and an actual management plan is suggested, LAWRA will have its own Bobcat expert formulate an evaluation of the new data and management plan.

The Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association specific concerns are:

1. **No biological evidence on the Bobcat in Louisiana.** LAWRA learned in talks with LDWF biologist Greg Linscombe and LDWF Assistant Secretary Phillip Bowman that the season is being proposed with “anecdotal” information from hunters and inconsistent trapping data. If LWFC authorizes a hunting season they will be in direct violation of state law, which reads {LDWF} Shall promulgate rules and regulations, subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure

Act, to set seasons, times, places, size limits, quotas, daily take, and possession limits, ***based upon biological and technical data,*** for all wildlife and fish. Any such rule or regulation shall have as its objective the sound conservation, preservation, replenishment, and management of that species for maximum continuing social and economic benefit to the state..."

- a. **Hunting Data:** The hunters are proposing the hunt and therefore can manipulate opinions and observations sent to the department in favor of bobcat hunting. The opinions of individuals, no matter how knowledgeable, do not replace the gathering of actual data on wildlife populations.
 - b. **"Anecdotal" Information:** The fur harvest data, which was obtained verbally from LDWF, has been hovering at around 350 pelts per season for the last three years. There is no accurate way to estimate Bobcat populations from harvest data. LAWRA believes that these trapping numbers alone are too high and that additional kills will be harmful to the population. Accurate biological information will make moot those concerns. Once again, the opinions of individuals, no matter how knowledgeable, do not replace the gathering of actual data on wildlife populations.
 - c. **70s Data On Bobcat:** There is old, outdated material from the 70s circulating within LDWF. No accurate determination of populations and need for a hunt can be obtained from this data. That includes the telemetry, theses and scent station studies done during this period. Additionally, LDWF, during the height of the trapping season of Bobcat in Louisiana, thought enough of the conservation ramifications in the 70s to do in-depth studies on the Bobcat. Why not now?
2. **LDWF has no bobcat management plan.** Under the planned way of issuing a permit to the more than 250,000 "big game" licenses in Louisiana, every Bobcat will be wiped out.
- a. **Big Game Permits:** Issuing a 1 per permit limit on the states more than 250,000 "big game" permit exceeds even educated guesses of current bobcat populations. The authorization would effectively allow for the killing of every bobcat in Louisiana.
 - b. **Management Goal:** LDWF has formulated no management goal. LAWRA has formulated an acceptable structure for one and it is outlined below:
 - i. **Bobcat Population Model:** A bobcat population model should be used to project population growth and assess the potential impact of a regulated hunting season. LAWRA makes no current suggestion for that model other than the two objectives and LDWF staff should investigate possible models. The model is further defined in the following sections:
 1. **Objective One:** The population objective is to maintain suitable or increasing bobcat populations in regions of Louisiana that provide suitable habitat conditions and that currently support established bobcat populations. The steps

to be taken to meet this objective are to conduct annual surveys to assess bobcat abundance and the range of established bobcat populations, to implement appropriate indices of bobcat abundance, and to implement field research projects to refine parameter estimates in the bobcat population model.

2. **Objective Two:** The hunting objective is to allow regulated hunting of bobcats at levels that are not detrimental to population stability. The steps for accomplishing this goal are to annually evaluate season length and permit limits to meet the population objective, annually monitor factors affecting hunter effort, and annually determine quota allocation based on accurate biological data.

3. **Increased intake by Wildlife Rehabilitators.** Louisiana's Wildlife Rehabilitators are already overworked and unpaid. Bobcat is elusive prey for hunters and they often miss the Bobcat. They may strike another area maiming the Bobcat. Eventually that Bobcat, unless immediately fatally injured, will make it into the hands of a Rehabilitator.

- a. **Extra Cost:** Bobcat hunting will inevitably cause an increase in the intake by Rehabilitators. If a hunting season is approved, are you going to grant funding for wildlife rehabilitation?
- b. **Unreleaseable Bobcats:** Even if a healthy litter of bobcat is brought to a Rehabilitator he or she will be hesitant to accept them for rehabilitation and in some cases refuse due to this hunting season. Louisiana's Rehabilitators are already planning to refuse certain species due to inaccurate management.
- c. **Dead Carcass Problem:** LAWRA believes that some unethical hunters will simply kill for the sport and leave carcasses behind. This leads to widespread disease promulgation via the species that eat the carcass.

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO: LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION 225-765-0948

FROM: MS. TERRE BLOCH DAVIS

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2003

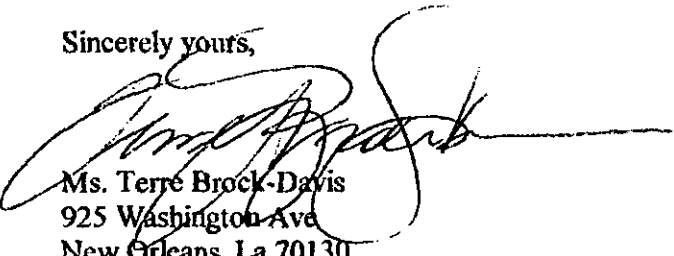
No. of pages, including cover sheet: 2

August 5, 2003

Dear Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

Please note that I am supportive of severely restricting the number of Louisiana bobcat to be killed each year. I think that this commission should first complete a scientific study on the density of the bobcat's population, which would inform the public on their ability and viability to survive in our state, before establishing a hunting season.

Sincerely yours,



Ms. Terre Brock-Davis
925 Washington Ave
New Orleans, La 70130

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO: LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

FROM: *Maddie Bernard*

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2003

No. of pages, including cover sheet: 2

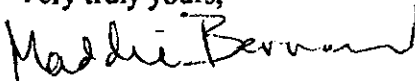
Ms. Maddie Bernard
1020 Lauradale
New Orleans, LA 70130

August 5, 2003

Dear Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

I am urging you to continue to protect the Louisiana bobcat and severely limit the number of bobcats killed each year. As a natural predator and an important part of our ecosystem, it is important that we keep nature's balance intact.

Very truly yours,


Maddie Bernard

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO: LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

FROM:

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2003

No. of pages, including cover sheet: 2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

FROM: JESSICA G. FAEGENTBURG *gf*
211 Belleville St
New Orleans, LA 70114

RE: BOBCAT HUNTING SEASON

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2003

DEAR COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Please note that I am one of a growing number of residents who is opposed to "trophy hunting." Opening up the bobcat hunting season was a poor choice. Please minimize this error, by limiting the number of bobcats "taken."

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Re: Bobcat Hunting Season

Dear Sirs:

This letter is regarding the enactment of a hunting season on bobcat here in Louisiana. I urge you to delay the setting of a hunting season until a population study can determine the numbers of bobcat that populate Louisiana. Due to loss of habitat these incredible animals have been losing their numbers over the years. Louisiana is a state that is rich in natural resources, and I believe that it is our duty to protect the animals that are currently fighting for survival. We must protect the future of our wildlife. As the Commission for Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, you should be at the forefront in this fight for protection.

People do not consider how delicate the balance is in nature, and by allowing the few predators to be hunted down and killed off, then the animals that are their natural prey will become overpopulated. As in many areas all over the country, this will occur in Louisiana. Our natural balance must be protected. Therefore, I strongly suggest conducting a population study to determine the bobcat population left in our state before the hunters destroy them all and ruin the balance of nature that supports the main tourist industry in the state, as well as the most beautiful aspect of our state.

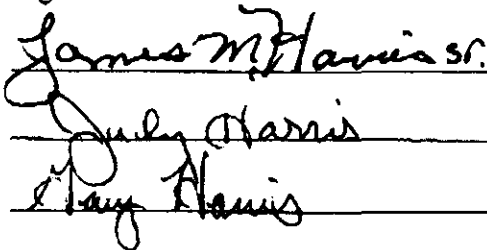
Below are signatures of others who agree with this statement and wish for a population study of the bobcat.

Sincerely,



Emily Harris

Signatures:



THE SACRED EARTH NETWORK

"This land is sacred. Even the rocks...thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people." Chief Seattle, 1854

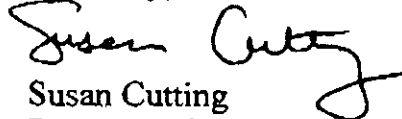
FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
FAX: 225-765-0948
FROM: Susan Cutting, Sacred Earth Network
E-MAIL: susan@sacredearthnetwork.org
PHONE: 413-253-6998
DATE: 8.06.03
NOTES:

Dear Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons.

Sincerely,



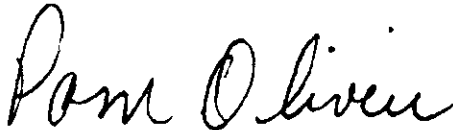
Susan Cutting
Program Director
Sacred Earth Network

Wednesday, August 6, 2003 4:41AM

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Olivier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pam Olivier

- >
>
> Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:
> > I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I > understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed >
> a statute, which will create the very first hunting > season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to >
> delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a > bobcat population density report has been ordered and >
> completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned > that our natural predators will be eradicated during >
> the establishment of more hunting seasons. > >
> Sincerely,

RIMA MILLIGAN
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission:

I am writing to beg you to delay establishing a permanent hunting season for bobcats until a population density study has been completed. As a scientist myself, I believe it is unprofessional to assume that there is an overpopulation problem without first proving it scientifically. Please do not allow unnecessary suffering and death without at least first gaining factual evidence that a problem exists!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda J. Roberts". The signature is fluid and includes a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Roberts
23083 Kilgore St
Mandeville, LA 70471

**CollectiveCopies**71 S. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 256-6425 • Fax: 253-7475www.collectivecopies.comDate August 6, 2003 No. of pages (not including cover) 1From Emilie HamiltonFax # 253-7475To Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries CommissionFax # 225-765 0948

Message:

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission,

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that the Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emilie Hamilton

Emilie Hamilton

PO Box 52

Leverett, MA 01064

Attention: Louisiana Wildlife &

Date: 8/6/2003

Company:

Number of Pages: 1

Fax Number: 12257650948

Voice Number:

From: Linda Bober

Company: Sun Bronze Bodies, Inc.

Fax Number: 773-445-7152

Voice Number: 773-298-8844

Subject: Bobcat hunts

Comments:

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana Bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the Bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a Bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons. We see all too often how quickly man can drive animals to the brink of extinction. Do not allow this travesty to take place. Thank you in advance for your time.

L. Bober

August 6, 2003

Dear La Wildlife and Fisheries,

I am writing to urge this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. We need our natural predators in the wild and hunting them will further upset the balance.

Nancy Tabb Marcantel
1011 Rue Bois de Chene
Breaux Bridge, LA 70517

225-765-0948

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat *population density* report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons.

Sincerely,

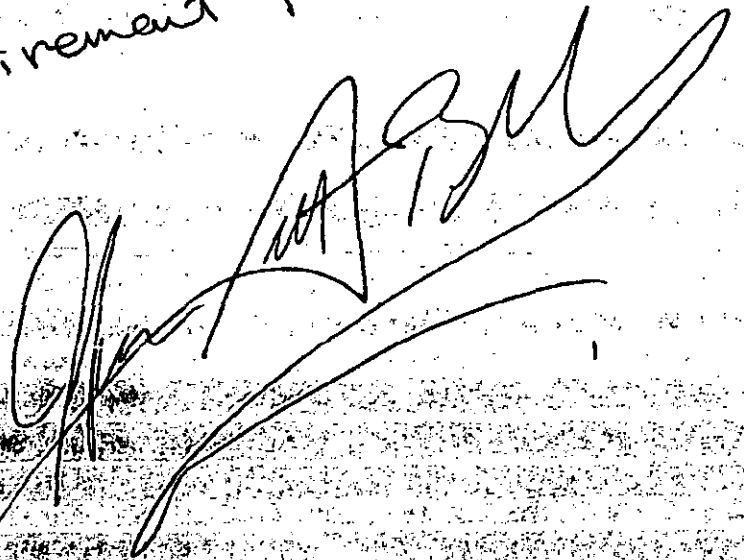
Diana Zelnio
1521 Bowe Lane SW
Alb. NM 87105

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat. I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons.

Sincerely,
Jeff Brumfield

Now That Our ~~Next~~ Legislature
Has Made This Grave Error, It Falls
To You To Limit The Damage.
It Is A Shame That Education
Is Not A Requirement For Those
Public Offices.



August 6, 2003

Dear members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission:

I am writing in support of the Louisiana bobcat. I understand that Louisiana legislature recently passed a statute, which will create the very first hunting season for the bobcat.

I am urging this commission to delay establishing a permanent hunting season until a bobcat population density report has been ordered and completed by a field biologist. I am further concerned that our natural predators will be eradicated during the establishment of more hunting seasons.

Sincerely,



Leann Frank

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115 and Act 1248 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule.

Properly licensed big game hunters may take a bobcat during the open deer hunting season. The season limit on bobcats taken by recreational deer hunters shall be one. Legal shooting hours and methods of take shall be the same as those for deer in each area of the state.

This rule shall take effect on September 13, 2003 which coincides with the opening of the 2003 archery season.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

Hawkins, Susan

From: LaCaze, B "Keith"
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 10:46 AM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Cc: Prickett, Tommy
Subject: RE: Bobcat DE

Susan, the language looks good. The only comment I have is on the season limit of one. If anyone was to ask if the Enforcement Division can enforce a season limit of one, my answer is no.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hawkins, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 10:24 AM
To: LaCaze, B "Keith"
Subject: Bobcat DE

Keith, please review and let me know of any changes.

<< File: Bobcat DE.wpd >>

Thanks,
Susan Hawkins

RESOLUTION

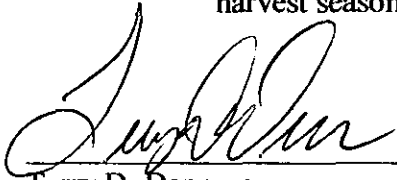
2003-2004 Fur Trapping Season adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:259 (A) authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of nongame quadrupeds and allows the Commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953 (B) and R.S. 49:967 (D) of the Administrative Procedure Act allows the Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana has historically lead the nation in the production of wild fur with value to the trappers as high as \$24 million in some seasons, and
- WHEREAS, the harvest of this renewable resource is important in providing supplemental income to citizens of the state while furnishing an essential management tool to reduce nuisance wildlife problems, property damage, the impact of prey species, the incident of density dependent disease and provide a measure of population health and general condition, and
- WHEREAS, regulated trapping provides the only practical control of muskrat and nutria populations, an essential part of any effort to protect or enhance coastal wetlands. The role of such trapping cannot be overstated because of the rate of wetland loss and the impact that these wetland grazers are having in southeastern parishes, and
- WHEREAS, during the 2003-2004 trapping season the department will continue the Coastwide Nutria Control Program providing an incentive payment of \$4.00 per nutria tail to participants for up to 400,000 nutria with the objective of reducing damage to coastal wetlands, and
- WHEREAS, the increased commercial harvest of beaver can play a major role in assisting in the reduction of damage to timber, agriculture, drainage, and wildlife habitat, and
- WHEREAS, historical and current information collected by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have indicated that the optimum time frame for the harvest of furbearers is between November and March each year, now

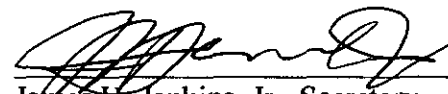
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the trapping season in any area of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003-2004 fur harvest season is attached to and made a part of this resolution.



Terry D. Denmon
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the provisions of R.S.56:259 (A) which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the open season for the taking of non-game quadrupeds and allows the commission to extend, curtail or prohibit trapping in any area of the state each year and in accordance with emergency provisions of R.S.49:953 (B) and R.S.49:967 (D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency provisions to set seasons, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003-2004 fur harvest season, statewide from November 20, 2003 through March 31, 2004. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby also authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend or shorten the adopted season.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brandt Savoie, Administrator
Bob Love, Assistant Administrator

FROM: Greg Linscombe, Program Manager

DATE: July 21, 2003

**RE: RESULTS OF THE 2002-2003 TRAPPING SEASON AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2003-2004 TRAPPING SEASON**

Results of the 2002-2003 Trapping Season

Records available from the License Section indicate a total of 1,589 trapping licenses were sold during the 2002-2003 trapping season. These figures show a increase in trapping licenses sold last season when compared to the previous season (871). This is the largest number of trapping licenses sold in the last four years and it is almost double the trapping licenses sold last year. Part of this increase may have been a result of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP) and significantly higher prices paid for river otter. Attached is a copy of trapping license sales from the season 1950-51 – through the 2002-2003 season.

Attached is a copy of the 2002-2003 Comparative Take. The total of 327,038 animals harvested (all species) was up 289,458 from the previous season's total of 37,580. The total value of the 2002-2003 fur harvest to the state's trappers was estimated at \$1,581,211. This was up \$1,378,600 from the previous season. This increase in harvest and value was directly related to the incentive payment associated with the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP).

Nutria Harvest

The nutria harvest (308,160) increased by 283,477 from the previous season total of 24,683. The average nutria pelt price paid to trappers during this past season was \$1.38, a decrease of \$.37 from the previous year (\$1.75). However, an additional \$4 was paid for all nutria taken during the CNCP. The total value of the nutria harvest increased from \$35,066 to \$1,232,640.

Coastwide Nutria Control Program

A total of 308,160 nutria tails, worth over 1.2 million dollars in incentive payments, were collected from 342 participants. One-hundred sixteen participants (34%) turned in less than 200 tails, 86 participants (25%) turned in between 200-499 tails, 35 participants (10%) turned in between 500 and 799 tails and 105 participants (31%) turned in over 800 tails. There were 22 parishes represented in the program with harvests ranging from 39 to 92,831. Approximately 90% of the harvest came from the southeast portion of Louisiana and the main method of harvest was by shooting with a rifle. Overall, the percentage for each method of taking nutria was 34% trapping, 63% shooting with a rifle and 3% taken with a shotgun. February was the most active month for tail collections (91,917), while December (22,652) was the least active month (see CNCP Report, CWPPRA Project LA-03b).

Vegetative Damage Caused By Nutria

In summer 2003, a coastwide aerial survey was conducted covering the coastal parishes of Louisiana. A total of 100 sites were visited, of which 10 were new in 2003 and 90 were previously classified as damaged in the 2002 survey. Out of the 90 sites previously identified as having nutria damage, 74 were identified as still having visible nutria herbivory impacts and 16 sites were classified as recovered. The following discussion will detail the 84 sites that currently have nutria damage.

A total of 21,888 (extrapolated to 82,080 coast wide) acres were impacted by nutria feeding activity along the transects (Table 6) as compared to 21,185 acres in 2002. Of the 84 sites showing impact, Terrebonne Parish contained 34 sites (40 %) and 12,521 damaged acres (57 %). Lafourche Parish had a decrease in acreage this year and accounted for 7 sites (8 %) and 610 acres (3%) of damaged marsh. Ten sites (12 %) and 1,805 acres (8%) were located in Jefferson Parish, down from previous years. Plaquemines Parish had the most dramatic increase in acres impacted of all the parishes. Plaquemines accounted for 13 sites (15 %) and 2,540 acres (12 %). St. Bernard Parish had only 5 sites (6%) with 918 acres (4%) impacted. Smaller amounts of damaged wetlands were located in St. Charles, St. Tammany and Orleans parishes. As in 2002 Terrebonne, Jefferson, and Plaquemines, continue to be the parishes most affected by nutria herbivory.

While there was a slight increase in impacted acreage from 2002 to 2003, the overall damage shifted from 78% (16,506 acres) classified as moderate to severe in 2002 to only 60% (13,083 acres) classified as moderate to severe in 2003. It was generally observed that the overall health of the marsh in 2003 was improved from 2002. This improved condition and decreased severity of nutria damage can not specifically be attributed to the CNCP because damage severity differences were not detected between harvested and unharvested areas. LDWF continues to predict that three to four years of sustained harvest would be necessary to produce a noticeable reduction in nutria damage. (see CNCP Report, CWPPRA Project LA-03b).

Fur Marketing

During this past year the Fur and Refuge Division staff continued to work closely with the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council (FAAC) on education and marketing programs for fur and alligators.

Last year the FAAC concentrated on marketing programs built around the development of new products. Louisiana nutria and raccoon pelts have been changed through processing to create a finished skin and garment completely different in appearance. The Council continued to contract with a Montreal consultant to work with designers and manufacturers to demonstrate how to use these new furs in today's fashionable garments and accessories. The task of finding new markets for the state's furs is difficult, but the alternative is coastal vegetative damage from nutria, not to mention the loss of supplemental income to trappers. All fur dealers working with this consultant were successful in selling all of the furs purchased during the season.

Raccoon Harvest

In past years the raccoon harvest was the third most important in terms of value. This past season the harvest has increased from the previous year. The harvest of raccoon increased from 6,198 to 11,167 pelts even though the price paid to trappers decreased from \$3.08 to \$2.86. The total value of this harvest increased from \$19,089 to \$31,938.

River Otter Harvest

Again this past season the most important fur in terms of price to the trapper was river otter. Harvest increased from 2,579 the previous year to 3,932 last season. Average price increased from \$50 to \$59 per pelt, for a total value of \$232,342. The river otter harvest is likely to stabilize or increase with the Coastwide Nutria Control Program with many more trappers in the marsh and the high prices paid for river otter.

Beaver Harvest

Beaver harvest this past season was 1,445 pelts with an average price of \$2.52 paid to trappers. Harvest was down 1,361 from the previous year (2,806) as a result of a reduction of \$1.48 per pelt below the previous price of \$4. Harvest of beaver is very beneficial in the control of timber, agricultural and road damage throughout the state.

Other Furbearers

Harvest of muskrat continued to be unbelievably low with only 438 pelts reported. Muskrat populations were down across most of the coast with the exception of the Biloxi marsh in St Bernard Parish and Marsh Island Refuge in Iberia Parish. These two areas had vegetative damage as a result of overpopulation. Marsh Island Refuge had the highest population observed in 30 years. Muskrat populations were reduced on these two areas as a result of Hurricane Lili. It is fortunate that only these two areas had high populations and damage since the price paid for muskrats was only \$1.00 and very few good muskrat trappers are left.

Recommendations for the 2003-2004 Trapping Season

Last year's season dates (statewide) were November 20, 2002– March 31, 2003. These dates were discussed at the June 10, 2003 Fur and Alligator Advisory Council meeting and there was general agreement to keep the dates the same as last year. These dates allow trappers to start when various furbearers become prime and are abundant and they can sell fur if prices are reasonable. Our objective is to allow the maximum possible trapping opportunity to increase harvest, especially of nutria, beaver, and raccoon.

The 2003-2004 Trapping Season dates recommended for this year are:

November 20, 2003 – March 31, 2004; Statewide. Bobcat and river otter tagging requirements will remain unchanged. Federal approval to export bobcat and river otter from the United States requires that the department insure that only Louisiana bobcat and river otter are tagged with Louisiana CITES export tags. This requires that all bobcat and river otter pelts be accompanied by completed State Possession Tags once purchased from a trapper and that these tags be kept with the pelts until they are submitted to the department in exchange from CITES export tags. The recommended trapping season dates on WMA's will be listed in the 2003-2004 Trapping Season Pamphlet.

**LOUISIANA
NO. OF TRAPPERS LICENSED BY YEAR**

1950-51	7,732	1976-77	9,329
1951-52	6,120	1977-78	12,069
1952-53	4,328	1978-79	11,106
1953-54	4,986	1979-80	12,239
1954-55	5,202	1980-81	11,801
1955-56	5,520	1981-82	10,867
1956-57	4,211	1982-83	10,668
1957-58	3,868	1983-84	8,793
1958-59	3,932	1984-85	10,935
1959-60	3,743	1985-86	9,458
1960-61	3,613	1986-87	6,947
1961-62	3,004	1987-88	5,038
1962-63	3,666	1988-89	2,888
1963-64	3,029	1989-90	1,877
1964-65	3,061	1990-91	1,414
1965-66	3,088	1991-92	1,543
1966-67	3,492	1992-93	1,189
1967-68	2,495	1993-94	1,274
1968-69	3,601	1994-95	1,686
1969-70	4,444	1995-96	1,700
1970-71	3,510	1996-97	2,691
1971-72.1	2,761	1997-98	2,442
1972-73	4,741	1998-99	1,578
1973-74	6,295	1999-00	1,024
1974-75	7,528	2000-01	987
1975-76	6,404	2001-02	871
		2002-03	1,589

**COMPARATIVE TAKE OF FUR ANIMALS
IN LOUISIANA
2002-2003**

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PELTS</u>	<u>APPROX. PRICE</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
NUTRIA(Eastern)	26,284	\$ 1.29	\$ 33,906
NUTRIA(Western)	<u>20,758</u>	<u>\$ 1.50</u>	\$ 31,137
	47,042	\$ 1.38	\$ 64,918
*CNCP	** 308,160	\$ 4.00	*** \$1,232,640
MUSKRAT	438	\$ 1.00	\$ 438
RACCOON	11,167	\$ 2.86	\$ 31,938
MINK	704	\$ 4.47	\$ 3,147
OPOSSUM	227	\$.54	\$ 123
RIVER OTTER	3,932	\$ 59.09	\$ 232,342
RED FOX	33	\$ 14.64	\$ 483
GRAY FOX	330	\$ 7.99	\$ 2,637
BOBCAT	516	\$ 17.10	\$ 8,824
BEAVER	1,445	\$ 2.52	\$ 3,641
COYOTE	<u>86</u>	<u>\$ 7.34</u>	<u>\$ 631</u>
TOTAL PELTS	65,920	TOTAL PELT VALUE	\$ 349,122
TOTAL ANIMALS (CNCP)	327,038	TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,581,211

* Coastwide Nutria Control Program (CNCP) incentive payment \$4.00 per tail to participating trappers

** CNCP number of animals harvested

***CNCP Total value of payments

July 16, 2003
La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
2415 Darnall Road
New Iberia, LA

RESOLUTION

2003 Fall Shrimp Season Opening
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to fix no less than two open shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides that shrimp season openings shall be based on biological and technical data which indicate that marketable shrimp, in sufficient quantities, are available for harvest, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal possession count on saltwater white shrimp shall average no more than 100 whole specimens to the pound (100 count per pound), except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no possession count, and

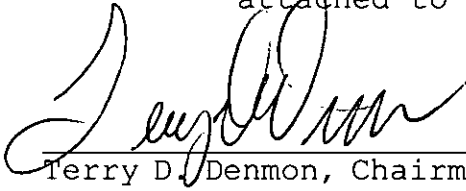
WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by early August and white shrimp in Shrimp Management Zone 1 will average 100 count per pound minimum size or larger by mid August, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with public notification provisions specified in R.S. 56:497, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby opens the 2003 fall shrimp season in inside waters in Shrimp Management Zone 1 at official sunrise August 18, 2003 and in Shrimp Management Zones 2 and 3 at official sunrise August 11, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby fix the closing dates for the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in inside waters at official sunset December 16, 2003 in Zones 2 and 3, and official sunset December 31, 2003 in Zone 1, except in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D), which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing dates if biological or technical data indicate

the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana state inside waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.



Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2003 Fall Shrimp Season in Louisiana waters to open as follows:

Shrimp Management Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the Mississippi-Louisiana State line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at official sunrise August 18, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 2, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003, and

Shrimp Management Zone 3, that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line, to open at official sunrise August 11, 2003.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season in Zone 2 and Zone 3 at official sunset

December 16, 2003, and Zone 1 at official sunset December 31, 2003 except in the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (LAC 76:VII.307D) which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2004. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close and reopen all or parts of state outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED TEMPORARY NATURAL REEF
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(12) provides that the Commission shall, through its Secretary, improve, enlarge, and protect the natural oyster reefs of this state as conditions may warrant, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Department may designate from which natural reefs oysters may be fished, and

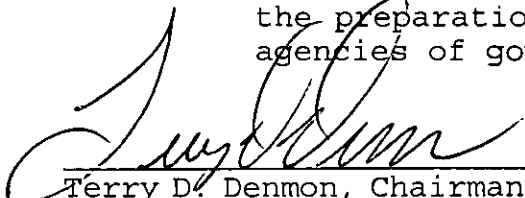
WHEREAS, oyster leases were purchased or relocated pursuant to R.S. 56:432.1 in a portion of Little Lake and nearby waterbottoms in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes, and


WHEREAS, the waterbottoms in that portion of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes have been reported to contain oysters of harvestable size and quantity, and

WHEREAS, due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, the oyster resource in this area is in imminent peril of being irretrievably lost.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries establish a designated temporary natural reef in the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity - Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes in the area described in the attached Declaration of Emergency which is attached to and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, including but not limited to the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.


Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission


James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and in accordance with R.S. 56:6(12) and R.S. 56:433, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries declare and designate those waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes more specifically described below to be a designated temporary natural reef.

The oyster resource located on this designated reef may be irretrievably lost due to the anticipated operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, which poses imminent peril to the welfare of the people of the state as a result of the permanent and irreplaceable loss of this natural resource and the resulting loss of economic benefit to the oyster industry. Inasmuch as the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion is anticipated to resume normal operations within 12 months, standard rulemaking procedures and timeframes would leave little, if any, time for an orderly and efficient harvest of this resource. Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do hereby declare the waterbottoms of Little Lake and vicinity in Jefferson and Lafourche parishes as described below a designated temporary natural reef:

Beginning at the point on the western bank of the Barataria Waterway, latitude of 29° 34' 40" North, longitude 90° 03' 35.070"

West; thence southerly along the western bank of the Barataria Waterway to a point, latitude 29° 30' 27.226" North, longitude 90° 01' 25.438" West; thence southwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 26' 37.361" North, longitude 90° 07' 26.119" West; thence northwesterly to a point, latitude 29° 28' 50.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence North to a point, latitude 29° 34' 40.000" North, longitude 90° 11' 40.000" West; thence East to the point of beginning.

All statutes, regulations, and policies pertaining to the use of public oyster grounds will be in force in this temporary natural reef with the exception of any additional mitigation requirements levied from time to time for construction, oil and gas exploration, or pipeline construction activities.

This Declaration of Emergency will become effective on September 3, 2003, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until revocation by the Commission and the Department.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

RESOLUTION
2003/2004 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
August 6, 2003

CONCUR		DATE
Bunks	PDB	8/6/03
Borgne's	MB	8-6-03
Foots	RLJ	8-6-03
	<i>[Signature]</i>	8-7-03

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be fished starting on the first Wednesday following Labor Day which in 2003 is September 3, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Seed Reservations, and Tonging Areas" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433(B.2) mandates a sacking only area on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force as provided for in R.S. 56:433(B.1), now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and

RESOLUTION
2003/2004 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be fished starting on the first Wednesday following Labor Day which in 2003 is September 3, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Seed Reservations, and Tonging Areas" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433(B.2) mandates a sacking only area on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force as provided for in R.S. 56:433(B.1), now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and

Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that under the authority of R.S. 56:435.1 the season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures, and

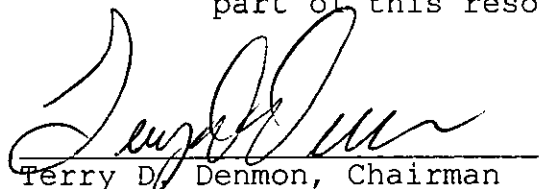
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003/2004 oyster season on the Public Oyster Grounds, Reservations, and Tonging Areas is attached to and made part of this resolution.



Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James W. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

The oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 9, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W.

The oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 18, 2003.

The season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures.

The following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is

authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

LDWF Oyster Season Recommendations - 2003/2004

August 6, 2003

Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation
September 3, 2003 - April 1, 2004

Little Lake Designated Temporary Natural Reef
September 3, 2003 - April 1, 2004

Primary Public Seed Grounds East of the Mississippi River, Lake Borgne and the sacking only area
September 10, 2003 - April 1, 2004

Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation
September 10, 2003 - April 1, 2004

Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation
September 10, 2003 - September 16, 2003 ****North End ONLY****

Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation
September 10, 2003 - September 21, 2003 **~~**Seed ONLY**~~**
~~September 22, 2003 - November 30, 2003~~ *seed + sacking*
18

Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Area
October 15, 2003 - April 30, 2004

No Season

Lake Mechant
Lake Tambour
Lake Chien
Lake Felicity
Deep Lake
Barataria Bay
Vermilion/Cote Blanche/
Atchafalaya Bays
Sabine Lake

RESOLUTION
2003/2004 Season on the Public Oyster Grounds
August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 provides that the Public Oyster Seed Grounds may be fished starting on the first Wednesday following Labor Day which in 2003 is September 3, and

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds, Seed Reservations, and Tonging Areas" have been surveyed and the available supply and size variation has been determined, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433(B.2) mandates a sacking only area on the Public Grounds east of the Mississippi River inclusive of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force as provided for in R.S. 56:433(B.1), now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and

Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on September 21, 2003, and open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 22, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 30, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that under the authority of R.S. 56:435.1 the season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the notice of any opening, delaying, or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003/2004 oyster season on the Public Oyster Grounds, Reservations, and Tonging Areas is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under the authority of R.S. 56:433 and R.S. 56:435.1 notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 3, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the Louisiana Public Oyster Seed Grounds not currently under lease located in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the designated temporary natural reef in Little Lake and vicinity.

The oyster season in the following areas will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on April 1, 2004: the primary public seed grounds east of the Mississippi River bordered on the north by the Louisiana/Mississippi state line and on the south by the Mississippi River and North Pass including that portion of Lake Borgne as described in LAC 76:VII.513, the sacking only area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation.

The oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and will close one-half hour after sunset on September 16, 2003 in the northern portion of the bay only as determined by the traditional November/February Department of Health and Hospital seasonal classification line which begins on the eastern shoreline of Bay Junop at latitude 29° 14' 03" N, longitude 91° 02' 37" W and follows a westerly line to the western shoreline at latitude 29° 13' 40" N, longitude 91° 03' 31" W.

The oyster season in the Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation will open for harvest of seed oysters only one-half hour before sunrise on September 10, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on September 21, 2003, and open for harvest of seed and sack oysters one-half hour before sunrise on September 22, 2003 and close one-half hour after sunset on November 30, 2003.

The season for the Calcasieu Lake public tonging area will open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2003 and will remain open until one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2004. However, these conservation actions will not supercede public health closures.

The following areas will remain closed for the 2003/2004 oyster season: the Public Oyster Seed Grounds located in portions of Lake Mechant, Lake Tambour, Lake Chien, Lake Felicity, Deep Lake, and Barataria Bay (as described in LAC 76:VII.517), the Atchafalaya-Vermilion Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described

in LAC 76:VII.507 and 509, and the Sabine Lake Public Tonging Area.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

RESOLUTION

ABANDONED CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM

August 6, 2003

WHEREAS, Act 48 (R.S. 56:332) of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a program for the removal of abandoned crab traps from state-owned lake and river beds and other water bottoms of the state, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:332 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to provide for a prohibition on the use of crab traps and for the removal of abandoned traps and their disposal, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall specify the beginning and ending dates for the prohibition on the use of crab traps, shall specify the geographical area within which the use of crab traps shall be prohibited, shall specify who is authorized to remove the abandoned traps, now

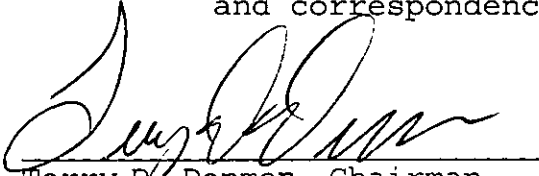
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt a notice of intent to implement a rule for an abandoned crab trap removal program and for two crab trap closures which is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby promulgate a notice of intent which describes the abandoned crab trap removal program which will become effective upon promulgation.

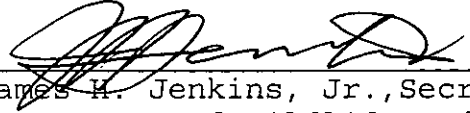
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to designate the locations where removed and abandoned traps are to be placed for disposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the family

and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Terry D. Denmon', written over a horizontal line.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James H. Jenkins, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate a Rule, LAC 76:VII.367, which provides for a derelict crab trap removal program. Authority to establish these regulations is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:332(M). Said rule is attached and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 16-day period from 6:00 a.m., February 28, 2004 through 6:00 a.m., March 14, 2004 within that portion of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes as described below:

1. From a point originating from the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area at the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence west along the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area to the Humble Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne, thence south along the western shoreline of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal, thence west along the northern

shoreline of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou, thence north along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Little Caillou to the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline in Chauvin, thence northwest along the Gulf South/South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline to LA Highway 57, thence south and then southeast along LA Highway 57 to its intersection with LA Highway 56, thence south along LA Highway 56 to latitude 29°17'00"N, thence east along latitude 29°17'00"N to LA Highway 1, thence north along LA Highway 1 to the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence north along the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee and terminating at the southern boundary of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area.

B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in a portion of Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays as described later for a 14-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. five days prior to the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays. In the event that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approves opening the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays before a five-day minimum notice can be provided for the crab trap closure, then the use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a nine-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. on the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following

the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in Vermilion and Cote Blanche Bays within that portion of Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary Parishes as described below:

1. From a point originating from Cypremort Point on Vermilion Bay, thence north along the shoreline of Vermilion Bay to its intersection with the Acadiana Navigational Channel, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence east along the shoreline of Marsh Island to longitude $91^{\circ}47'00''\text{W}$, thence north along longitude $91^{\circ}47'00''\text{W}$ to the shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay, thence west along the northern shoreline of West Cote Blanche Bay and terminating at Cypremort Point.

C. All crab traps remaining in the closed areas during the specified periods shall be considered abandoned. For the winter closure only, crab traps may be removed only between one-half before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone is authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed areas. All traps removed shall be transported to disposal sites designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. No person removing traps from the designated closed areas shall retain these traps outside of the closed areas.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332 (M) .

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 29: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

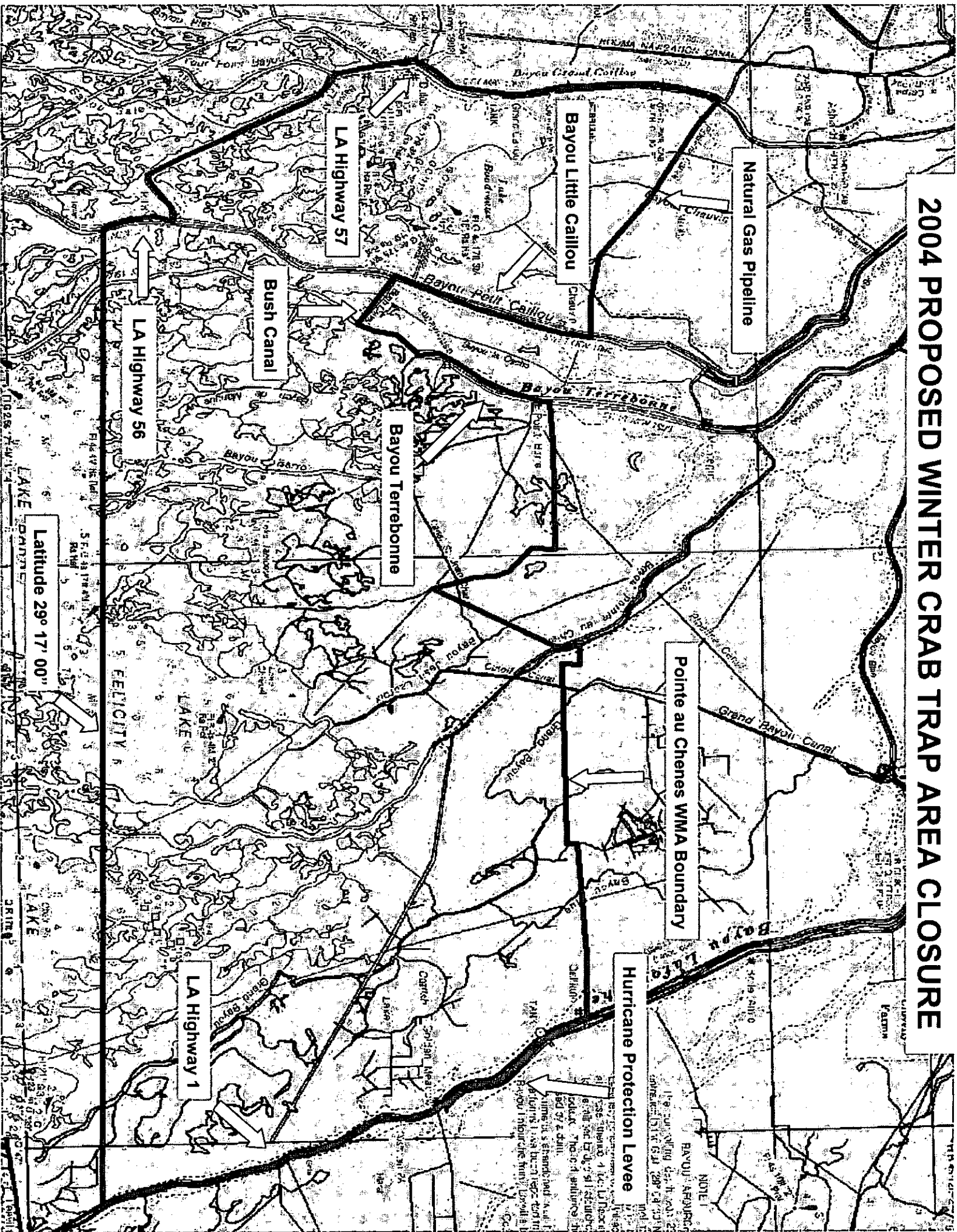
Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Martin Bourgeois, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Marine Fisheries Division, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Friday, October 3, 2003.

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

2004 PROPOSED WINTER CRAB TRAP AREA CLOSURE



ER
ed from the Pittsburgh
ce 7 1/2 feet is Bloussard
assader, Caffery, Bridge
bridge. Over blind paws
he 65 feet.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2003						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

SEPT-03

RULE - Rules of the Road for Vessels

NOV-03

RULE - 2004 Turkey Season

RULE - Responsibilities and Powers of
Enforcement Officers

RULE - Establishment of an Oyster Harvest Area
Grid System

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	PERCENT DOLLARS PAID	PERCENT CASES PAID
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	\$21,039.00	(\$9,778.00)	29	\$4,855.00	\$2,545.00		
Aug., 1993	53	\$44,922.00	(\$1,137.00)	41	\$7,950.00	\$3,603.00		
Sept., 1993	42	\$137,635.00	(\$17,938.00)	35	\$6,783.00	\$3,048.00		
Oct., 1993	49	\$21,471.00	(\$11,282.00)	40	\$3,285.00	\$1,519.00		
Nov., 1993	57	\$31,207.00	(\$13,260.00)	32	\$3,053.00	\$2,845.00		
Dec., 1993	53	\$13,777.00		27	\$6,507.00	\$6,713.00		
Jan., 1994	38	\$18,918.00		32	\$4,423.00	\$2,831.00		
Feb., 1994	68	\$38,131.00	(\$8,238.00)	46	\$9,124.00	\$5,993.00		
Mar., 1994	38	\$22,739.00	(\$2,482.00)	51	\$10,854.00	\$6,796.00		
April, 1994	14	\$44,732.00	(\$1,404.00)	27	\$7,307.00	\$4,632.00		
May, 1994	10	\$4,504.00	(\$165.00)	7	\$5,447.00	\$3,808.00		
June, 1994	29	\$26,167.00	(\$2,986.00)	12	\$1,886.00	\$1,214.00		
Total FY 1994	476	\$425,242.00	(\$68,670.00)	379	\$71,474.00	\$45,547.00	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	\$2,127.00	(\$335.00)	23	\$2,101.00	\$1,437.00		
Aug., 1994	41	\$96,403.00	(\$3,035.00)	20	\$1,010.00	\$605.00		
Sept., 1994	34	\$14,614.00	(\$14,002.00)	26	\$2,596.00	\$2,342.00		
Oct., 1994	94	\$17,426.00	(\$8,677.00)	38	\$2,922.00	\$3,179.00		
Nov., 1994	43	\$103,592.00		45	\$3,992.00	\$2,803.00		
Dec., 1994	68	\$31,400.00		35	\$4,315.00	\$2,329.00		
Jan., 1995	55	\$27,601.00		52	\$7,493.00	\$4,921.00		
Feb., 1995	70	\$61,119.00		41	\$6,472.00	\$3,973.00		
Mar., 1995	31	\$25,072.00		44	\$8,315.00	\$4,737.00		
Apr., 1995	13	\$15,353.00		16	\$3,565.00	\$1,538.00		
May., 1995	23	\$11,632.00		16	\$4,315.00	\$654.00		
June 1995	45	\$31,008.00		18	\$2,630.00	\$1,025.00		
Total FY 1995	534	\$437,347.00	(\$26,049.00)	374	\$49,726.00	\$29,543.00	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	\$0.00						
Aug., 1995	46	\$17,425.00		27	\$9,028.00	\$1,729.00		
Sept., 1995	1	\$125.00		21	\$3,093.00	\$2,049.00		
Oct., 1995	122	\$206,244.00		29	\$2,720.00	\$1,161.00		
Nov., 1995	55	\$23,124.00		62	\$10,151.00	\$6,383.00		
Dec., 1995	50	\$18,607.26		32	\$4,780.66	\$2,802.76		
Jan., 1996	49	\$13,814.88	(\$15,296.45)	36	\$5,296.51	\$3,472.89		
Feb., 1996	50	\$14,716.97		38	\$5,777.53	\$3,416.91		
Mar., 1996	33	\$24,936.91		36	\$6,035.12	\$3,421.75		
Apr., 1996	30	\$11,006.66		36	\$7,173.12	\$2,711.54		
May., 1996	23	\$7,989.34		24	\$3,941.69	\$2,020.29		
June 1996	50	\$22,151.31		16	\$2,790.02	\$1,182.23		
Total FY 1996	509	\$360,141.33	(\$15,296.45)	357	\$60,786.65	\$30,350.37	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	\$71,894.13		32	\$5,249.93	\$2,947.96		
Aug., 1996	32	\$5,362.64		32	\$6,254.59	\$3,783.69		
Sept., 1996	41	\$7,210.00		29	\$2,259.96	\$1,326.58		
Oct., 1996	29	\$11,092.53		25	\$3,697.89	\$2,261.98		
Nov., 1996	20	\$10,009.10		22	\$1,624.63	\$698.02		
Dec., 1996	13	\$238,466.04		22	\$5,877.18	\$2,121.53		
Jan., 1997	27	\$11,755.22		17	\$4,393.30	\$2,377.09		
Feb., 1997	47	\$18,520.87		42	\$8,579.84	\$5,552.63		
Mar., 1997	26	\$13,434.02		27	\$4,999.59	\$2,757.67		
Apr., 1997	10	\$2,908.87		15	\$2,322.88	\$1,298.66		
May., 1997	20	\$11,682.70		15	\$5,198.91	\$1,399.21		
June 1997	5	\$8,036.58		10	\$2,335.24	\$765.34		
Total FY 1997	310	\$410,372.70	\$0.00	288	\$52,793.94	\$27,290.36	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	\$2,811.71		8	\$1,584.67	\$823.11		
Aug., 1997	14	\$8,741.30		8	\$1,496.49	\$779.14		
Sept., 1997	29	\$19,926.37		12	\$2,051.78	\$1,278.04		
Oct., 1997	12	\$4,716.81		23	\$3,184.83	\$2,063.89		
Nov., 1997	23	\$54,965.34		10	\$2,424.86	\$1,218.28		
Dec., 1997	25	\$36,881.09		15	\$4,376.97	\$2,775.66		
Jan., 1998	42	\$30,025.81		17	\$5,300.40	\$3,533.66		
Feb., 1998	37	\$31,164.95		29	\$22,961.69	\$8,501.18		
Mar., 1998	9	\$13,273.45		32	\$9,406.56	\$4,371.53		

Apr., 1998	10	\$5,628.21		10	\$2,602.62	\$1,279.77		
May., 1998	0	\$225.00		8	\$2,885.02	\$950.46		
June 1998	5	\$2,414.03		6	\$1,041.54	\$98.00		
Total FY 1998	216	\$210,774.07	\$0.00	178	\$59,317.43	\$27,672.72	41.3%	82.4%
FICAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	\$1,390.43		8	\$1,964.20	\$716.75		
Aug., 1998	10	\$2,240.70		10	\$1,048.28	\$372.47		
Sept., 1998	8	\$2,768.96		11	\$2,000.36	\$1,148.23		
Oct., 1998	22	\$28,704.85		14	\$1,860.17	\$807.48		
Nov., 1998	19	\$9,137.79		11	\$1,765.97	\$1,092.43		
Dec., 1998	23	\$11,959.10		27	\$4,441.02	\$2,040.71		
Jan., 1999	41	\$21,179.55		18	\$6,621.63	\$3,838.22		
Feb., 1999	45	\$26,236.24		41	\$12,119.09	\$6,923.61		
Mar., 1999	15	\$7,549.57		33	\$8,281.77	\$4,138.44		
Apr., 1999	9	\$8,013.54		14	\$3,035.82	\$1,388.41		
May., 1999	5	\$5,161.23		5	\$905.50	\$405.00		
June 1999	7	\$3,719.01		13	\$3,011.06	\$533.83		
Total FY 1999	213	\$128,060.97	\$0.00	205	\$47,054.87	\$23,405.58	55.0%	96.2%
FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000								
July, 1999	5	\$1,556.38		9	\$2,287.53	\$1,198.81		
Aug., 1999	10	\$2,510.83		15	\$2,455.38	\$513.73		
Sept., 1999	6	\$2,032.19	\$5,324.80	28	\$3,563.06	\$475.93		
Oct., 1999	11	\$4,452.31	\$567.75	25	\$2,775.48	\$557.41		
Nov., 1999	14	\$8,634.64		26	\$3,250.96	\$1,322.96		
Dec., 1999	24	\$15,891.96		19	\$3,862.76	\$2,126.27		
Jan., 2000	49	\$27,872.14		28	\$7,952.94	\$3,814.02		
Feb., 2000	21	\$11,039.59		30	\$10,159.24	\$6,216.42		
Mar., 2000	19	\$9,873.21		31	\$6,709.07	\$3,555.40		
Apr., 2000	12	\$7,897.70		17	\$2,932.41	\$1,512.54		
May, 2000	7	\$5,039.46	\$293.60	20	\$7,062.23	\$3,164.00		
June, 2000	16	\$14,566.88		18	\$5,766.59	\$1,852.12		
Total FY 2000	194	\$111,367.29	\$6,186.15	266	\$58,777.65	\$26,309.61	76%	137%
FISCAL YEAR 2000-01								
July, 2000	2	\$865.01		14	\$1,948.03	\$154.01		
Aug., 2000	20	\$15,837.60		17	\$3,302.27	\$1,063.92		
Sept., 2000	12	\$3,562.26		23	\$8,718.21	\$1,351.41		
Oct., 2000	18	\$122,696.24		29	\$7,457.98	\$490.16		
Nov., 2000	13	\$15,851.30		22	\$4,038.50	\$309.30		
Dec., 2000	40	\$30,234.92		24	\$7,189.98	\$462.13		
Jan., 2001	28	\$15,923.38		25	\$7,611.66	\$833.60		
Feb., 2001	35	\$20,181.39		30	\$18,568.12	\$1,917.82		
Mar., 2001	8	\$5,956.83		37	\$15,724.02	\$753.86		
Apr., 2001	20	\$24,145.82		22	\$4,856.39	\$225.93		
May 2001	4	\$1,677.36		20	\$3,700.77	\$313.58		
June 2001	3	\$932.20		31	\$8,433.81	\$346.90		
Total FY 2001	203	\$257,864.31	\$0.00	294	\$91,549.74	\$8,222.62	39%	145%
FISCAL YEAR 2001-02								
July, 2001	4	\$4,290.29		25	\$6,328.36	\$293.54		
Aug., 2001	6	\$9,452.69		18	\$2,984.52			
Sept., 2001	0	\$175.00		25	\$4,157.32	\$66.29		
Oct., 2001	15	\$6,439.06		18	\$3,174.66	\$67.32		
Nov., 2001	15	\$5,913.63		24	\$3,932.41	\$194.66		
Dec., 2001	36	\$21,868.88		20	\$5,384.19	\$502.17		
Jan., 2002	56	\$27,650.44		38	\$11,100.99	\$1,008.09		
Feb., 2002	27	\$14,211.31	\$620.55	37	\$20,017.87	\$861.63		
Mar., 2002	8	\$6,765.68		36	\$10,061.89	\$419.16		
Apr., 2002	20	\$11,296.19		19	\$2,196.02	\$49.33		
May, 2002	3	\$30,852.57	\$11,887.80	27	\$8,265.67	\$538.72		
June, 2002	3	\$8,636.08		23	\$3,418.15	\$87.91		
Total FY 2002	193	\$147,551.82	\$12,508.35	310	\$81,022.05	\$4,088.82	58%	161%
FISCAL YEAR 2002-03								
July, 2002	8	\$6,915.26		20	\$3,308.14	\$111.90		
Aug., 2002	12	\$11,943.66		24	\$4,010.98	\$47.33		
Sept., 2002	6	\$1,944.83		19	\$4,624.36	\$85.25		
Oct., 2002	24	\$12,167.99		25	\$7,131.20	\$442.95		
Nov., 2002	21	\$11,013.41		27	\$8,688.51	\$624.99		
Dec., 2002	32	\$15,763.99		23	\$7,660.18	\$689.95		

Jan.,2003	58	\$32,391.55		22	\$7,149.09	\$562.34		
Feb.,2003	33	\$18,426.48		40	\$13,988.00	\$1,122.57		
Mar., 2003	13	\$3,668.17		28	\$9,342.76	\$643.57		
Apr., 2003	16	\$5,661.77		23	\$3,004.29	\$269.02		
May, 2003	11	\$5,801.24		20	\$5,252.90	\$293.69		
June, 2003	11	\$6,700.71		24	\$6,907.49	\$224.85		
Total FY 2003	245	\$132,399.06	\$0.00	\$295.00	\$81,067.90	\$5,118.41	65%	120%
FISCAL YEAR 2003-04								
July, 2003	7	\$1,742.90		17	\$3,502.99	\$30.27		
Aug., 2003								
Sept., 2003								
Oct., 2003								
Nov., 2003								
Dec., 2003								
Jan., 2003								
Feb., 2003								
Mar., 2003								
Apr., 2003								
May, 2003								
June, 2003								

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	7	\$1,717.90
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	1	\$25.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	7	\$1,742.90
PAYMENTS	13	\$2,996.58-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	0	\$0.00
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	3	\$376.19-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	1	\$55.22-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	3	\$75.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2	\$30.27-
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$0.19
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	1	\$25.00
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$1,500.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	1	\$524.54-

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
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	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	7	\$1,717.90
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	1	\$25.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	7	\$1,742.90
PAYMENTS	13	\$2,996.58-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	0	\$0.00
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	3	\$376.19-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	1	\$55.22-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	3	\$75.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2	\$30.27-
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$0.19
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	1	\$25.00
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$1,500.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	1	\$524.54-

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
07/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	4,642	\$3,235,330.50
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	377	\$9,975.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	138	\$58,209.82
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	4,642	\$3,033,649.87
PAYMENTS	3,138	\$695,304.07-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	33	\$8,624.04-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	79	\$28,760.01-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	30	\$26,676.44-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	200	\$5,200.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2,196	\$261,542.55-
OVERPAYMENTS	129	\$95.40
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	65	\$11,862.86
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	17	\$44,255.65-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	5	\$6,780.54
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	8	\$45,896.70
RETURNED CHECKS	1	\$61.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	3	\$55.00
CREDITS	13	\$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	21	\$6,881.15
CREDITS	65	\$38,561.90-
WRITE-OFFS	991	\$1,065,146.59-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	7	\$1,794.95-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	31	\$21,074.58-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	91	\$169,056.29-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	1	\$2,134.47-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	2	\$559.32-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	1	\$524.54-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	2	\$6,680.98-
=====		
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING	333	\$729,376.67

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	38	\$106,941.70 *
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AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	3	\$2,119.60
31 - 60 DAYS	6	\$445.30
61 - 90 DAYS	9	\$3,829.90
91 - 120 DAYS	5	\$10,589.20
121 - 150 DAYS	1	\$2,934.00
151 - 180 DAYS	2	\$150.00
181 - 365 DAYS	26	\$14,709.55
OVER ONE YEAR	70	\$75,327.12
OVER TWO YEARS	134	\$117,005.12
OVER THREE YEARS	916	\$632,249.40

=====

** TOTAL AGING 1,172 \$859,359.19

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	3	\$567.29
CURRENT	4	\$1,150.61
1 - 30 DAYS	8	\$4,640.81
31 - 90 DAYS	12	\$5,563.86
91 - 180 DAYS	36	\$20,452.15
181 - 365 DAYS	34	\$27,415.50
OVER ONE YEAR	127	\$164,788.98

COLLECTIONS WITH PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FIRM:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	105	\$421,988.31

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	1	\$549.54
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	3	\$82,259.62

=====

** TOTAL AGING 333 \$729,376.67

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
CURRENT MONTH
07/01/2003-07/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	1,128	\$63,255.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	615	\$16,057.50
CREDITS	4	\$175.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	95	\$726.25
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$79,863.75

=====

PAID IN FULL	895	\$52,173.50-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	17	\$975.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	0	\$0.00
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	2	\$77.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	2	\$8.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	4	\$57.00
REFUNDS	7	\$132.50
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	2	\$150.00
CREDITS	3	\$100.00-
VOIDS	15	\$800.00-
NOT GUILTY	7	\$400.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	4	\$300.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/2003-07/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	1,128	\$63,255.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	615	\$16,057.50
CREDITS	4	\$175.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	95	\$726.25
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$79,863.75

=====

PAID IN FULL	895	\$52,173.50-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	17	\$975.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	0	\$0.00
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	2	\$77.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	2	\$8.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	4	\$57.00
REFUNDS	7	\$132.50
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	2	\$150.00
CREDITS	3	\$100.00-
VOIDS	15	\$800.00-
NOT GUILTY	7	\$400.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	4	\$300.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	0	\$0.00
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
07/31/2003

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	108,532	\$5,565,057.07
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	28,566	\$716,795.30
CREDITS	5	\$10,991.00-
LATE CHARGES		
DEBITS	783	\$6,000.75
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$6,276,862.12

=====

PAID IN FULL	64,803	\$3,449,675.99-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	1,633	\$75,943.75-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	14	\$690.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	33	\$345.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE COLLECTIONS	28	\$1,745.00-
DEPT OF REVENUE FEES	28	\$112.00-
WRITE-OFFS	11,957	\$697,677.50-
OVERPAYMENTS	187	\$4,163.28
REFUNDS	352	\$15,680.31
RETURNED CHECKS	73	\$3,825.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	70	\$1,115.00
CREDITS	170	\$141.88-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	246	\$14,500.00
CREDITS	44	\$2,500.00-
VOIDS	5,641	\$283,800.00-
NOT GUILTY	1,217	\$61,900.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	222	\$11,500.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	12	\$600.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	157	\$7,900.00-
OVERTURNED ON APPEAL	0	\$0.00
		=====
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$1,721,614.59

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM CITATION DATE

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CURRENT	757	\$42,000.00
1 - 30 DAYS	534	\$30,570.00
31 - 90 DAYS	1,128	\$70,120.00
91 - 180 DAYS	700	\$47,625.00
181 - 365 DAYS	1,168	\$95,830.00
OVER ONE YEAR	20,124	\$1,422,310.59

COLLECTIONS WITH DEPT OF REVENUE:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	173	\$12,934.00

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	3	\$225.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING	24,587	\$1,721,614.59
----------------	--------	----------------

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM HEARING DATE

PREHEARING	1,754	\$98,095.00
0 - 90 DAYS	1,356	\$90,420.00
91 - 180 DAYS	502	\$43,295.00
181 - 270 DAYS	474	\$36,985.00
271 - 365 DAYS	802	\$62,300.00
OVER ONE YEAR	19,699	\$1,390,519.59

=====

** TOTAL AGING	24,587	\$1,721,614.59
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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary

2003-213



CONTACT
225/765-2925

7/31/03

AGENDA ANNOUNCED FOR L.W.F.C. MEETING

The agenda for the next regular public board meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has been announced. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6. It will be held at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building located at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. The agenda is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
3. Commission Special Announcements
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
5. Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition
6. Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns
7. Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons
8. Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA
9. Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA
10. Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248
11. Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season
12. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003- 2004 Trapping Season
13. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season
14. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas
15. Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef
16. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program
17. Set December 2003 Meeting Date
18. Public Comments
19. Adjournment

EDITORS: *For more information, contact Thomas Gresham at 225/765-2923 (gresham_tp@wlf.state.la.us).*

July 29, 2003

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
3. Commission Special Announcements
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
5. Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition
6. Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns
7. Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons
8. Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA
9. Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA
10. Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248
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13. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season
14. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas
15. Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef
16. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program
17. Set December 2003 Meeting Date
18. Public Comments
19. Adjournment

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: August Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
3. Commission Special Announcements

WINTON VIDRINE

4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
5. Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns
7. Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons
8. Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board

WMA

Page 2
Commission Meeting
July 29, 2003

9. Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA

10. Declaration of Emergency - Bobcat Season as Authorized by Act 1248

11. Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season

12. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003-2004 Trapping Season

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

13. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season

14. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas

15. Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef

16. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

17. Set December 2003 Meeting Date

18. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Administrators
Marianne Burke

July 29, 2003

Changed by Tommy
Pickett - 7/29/2003

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
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15. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program
16. Set December 2003 Meeting Date
17. Public Comments
18. Adjournment

C O V E R
S H E E T



FAX

To: ~~Terry Denmon~~ Susan Hawkins

Fax #: 318-361-5036

Subject: Another Agenda Item

Date: July 24, 2003

Pages: 1, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Denmon, Karen Foote with the Marine Fisheries Division would like to add another item to the agenda for the August Commission Meeting. The wording will be similar to the following: Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef. I believe this was an item that was requested by the Oyster Task Force as a result of their meeting yesterday. Please let me know. Thanks.

OK
[Signature]
7.24.03

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Terry Denmon
Fax #: 318-361-5036
Subject: Another Agenda Item
Date: July 24, 2003
Pages: 1, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Denmon, Karen Foote with the Marine Fisheries Division would like to add another item to the agenda for the August Commission Meeting. The wording will be similar to the following: Declaration of Emergency - Establishment of a Designated Temporary Natural Reef. I believe this was an item that was requested by the Oyster Task Force as a result of their meeting yesterday. Please let me know. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

C O V E R
S H E E T



FAX

To: Terry Denmon

Susan Hawkins

Fax #: 318 361 5036

Subject: Agenda

Date: July 23, 2003

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached agenda for the Wednesday, August 6, 2003 Commission Meeting.
Thanks.

OK
[Signature]
7.23.03

TO:
[Arrow pointing to contact information]

From the desk of...
Susan Hawkins
La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2805
Fax: 225-765-0948

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Terry Denmon
Fax #: 318-361-5036
Subject: Agenda
Date: July 23, 2003
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached agenda for the Wednesday, August 6, 2003 Commission Meeting.
Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: August Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2003
3. Commission Special Announcements

WINTON VIDRINE

4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July
5. Presentation by Office of Risk Management for Employee Recognition

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Presentation by Louisiana Wild Turkey Federation and Drawing for Shotguns

7. Declaration of Emergency - Waterfowl Seasons
 8. Resolution - Establishing Tangipahoa Parish School Board
- WMA

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 2003

9. Declaration of Emergency - Setting Hunting Seasons on Tangipahoa Parish School Board WMA

10. Public Comment - 2004 Turkey Season

11. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - Setting the 2003-2004 Trapping Season

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

12. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season

13. Resolution & Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas

14. Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

15. Set December 2003 Meeting Date

16. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Administrators
Marianne Burke

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Wednesday, August 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Susan:
I have no agenda
items from the Wildlife
Fisheries Div.
Thanks

C. John Lamm

Bennie

Hawkins, Susan

From: Roussel, John E
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2003 9:47 AM
To: Abbott, Janet
Cc: Porch, Pat; Hawkins, Susan; Foote, Karen
Subject: RE: August Commission Agenda - Marine Fisheries

Approved

-----Original Message-----

From: Abbott, Janet
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2003 9:32 AM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Porch, Pat; Hawkins, Susan; Foote, Karen
Subject: August Commission Agenda - Marine Fisheries

With your approval, the following items should be added to the August 6, 2003 Commission Agenda for Marine Fisheries:

- * Resolution and Declaration of Emergency - 2003 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season - Marty Bourgeois
- * Resolution and Declaration of Emergency - 2003-04 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Grounds, Seed Reservations & Tonging Areas - Marty Bourgeois
- * Notice of Intent - Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

Janet W. Abbott
Administrative Specialist 2
Marine Fisheries Division
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive (P. O. Box 98000)
Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (70898-9000)
(225) 765-2384 phone
(225) 765-2489 fax

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Wednesday, August 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie ✓
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

*Resolution and
Declaration of Emergency
to let the 2003-2004
Trapping Season
If reg wins combine*

State of Louisiana



To: *Susan H.*

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Wednesday, August 6th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

*Res. - Establishing Tangipahoa
P School Board WMA -*

Public Commit Turkey Season

DE - Waterfowl seasons

*DE - Tangipahoa P School
Board Property - Tommy*

*Presentation of Shotguns to Turkey
Weigh Station Participants -*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Wednesday, August 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke ✓

Public Information

- Nothing for us.

Mike Foster

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - ~~August~~ **August 6, 2003**

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Wednesday, August 6th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
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Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

JUL-03-03 THU 04:04 PM

DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
JUL-03	04:03 PM	SEAFOOD MKTG BOARD	44"	1	SEND	OK	392	

TOTAL : 44S PAGES: 1

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

July 2, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - August 6, 2003

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, July 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Wednesday, August 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building,

Henry Mouton

From: cholmes@att.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 12:45 PM
To: henrymouton@star-service.com
Subject: Bobcat seasons

Henry, for your info tomorrow here is a short summary of the other Gulf Coast states that allow bobcat hunting. (all but La. do) All information was obtained from each state's wildlife Department website under their hunting regulations.

Chris.

Texas:

Classified as nongame animals and can be hunted at any time by any lawful means on private property. Public lands may have restrictions. A hunting license is required. Any bobcats pelts to be sold or traded must have a CITES tag. Does not appear to have any bag limit.

Mississippi:

Classified as small game.
This year's season.
10-2-03 through 10-31-03 (for food and sport)
1
Bag Limit 5 per day- 8 per party
11-1-03 through 2-28-04 (for food, sport and pelt)
NO BAG LIMIT

Alabama:

NO BAG LIMIT*
Daylight hours only.
Guns only in areas of and during dates of turkey and/or gun deer season.
Bow and arrow only in areas of open bow and arrow season for turkey and deer.

* All bobcat and otter, regardless of method of harvest, are required to be tagged by a representative of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division within 14 days of harvest or may be left with a taxidermist with a completed tagging form, and the taxidermist is required to have the bobcat or otter tagged within 14 days of receipt (Rule 220-2-.30).

Florida:

May be taken with guns December 1 through March 1. There appears to be no bag limit, but the wording is not very clear.

Louisiana:

Bobcat hunting has been outlawed in La since 1978. It seems the modest La proposal of only one bobcat per season would be the most restrictive on the entire Gulf Coast.

If you need anything else, let me know.

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate a Rule, LAC 76:VII.367, which provides for a derelict crab trap removal program. Authority to establish these regulations is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:332(M). Said rule is attached and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§367. Removal of Abandoned Crab Traps

A. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a 16-day period from 6:00 a.m., February 28, 2004 through 6:00 a.m. March 14, 2004 within that portion of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes as described below:

1. From a point originating from the southern boundary of the Pointe au Chenes Wildlife Management Area at the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence west along the southern boundary of the Pointe aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area to the Humble Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Humble Canal to its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne, thence south along the western shoreline of Bayou Terrebonne to its intersection with Bush Canal, thence west along the northern shoreline of Bush Canal to its intersection with Bayou Little Caillou, thence north along the eastern shoreline of Bayou Little Caillou to the Gulf South / South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline in Chauvin, thence northwest along the Gulf South / South Coast

Natural Gas Pipeline to LA Highway 57, thence south and then southeast along LA Highway 57 to its intersection with LA Highway 56, thence south along LA Highway 56 to Latitude 29°17'00" N, thence east along Latitude 29°17'00" N to LA Highway 1, thence north along LA Highway 1 to the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee, thence north along the South Lafourche Hurricane Protection Levee and terminating at the southern boundary of the Pointe aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area. *red/or*

2/1/04
B. The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in a portion of Vermilion Bay as described later for a 14-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. five days prior to the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay. In the event that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approves opening the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion and Bay before a five-day minimum notice can be provided for the crab trap closure, then the use of crab traps shall be prohibited for a nine-day period beginning at 6:00 a.m. on the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay and ending at 6:00 a.m. nine days following the opening of the 2004 Spring inshore shrimp season in Vermilion Bay. *ethi* The use of crab traps shall be prohibited in Vermilion Bay within that portion of Vermilion and Iberia, *^* Parishes as described below:

1. From a point originating from the intersection of the Acadiana Navigational Channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence southwest along the Acadiana Navigational Channel red buoy line to the red navigational marker number 12 on the Marsh Island shoreline near Southwest Pass, thence south along the eastern shore of Southwest Pass to a position which intersects the inside/outside shrimp line as defined in

R.S.56:495, thence west along the inside/outside shrimp line to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou, thence north along the western shore of Freshwater Bayou to its intersection with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, thence east along the northern shore of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the eastern shore of the Acadiana Navigational Channel.

C. All crab traps remaining in the closed areas during the specified periods shall be considered abandoned. For the winter closure only, crab traps may be removed only between one-half before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Anyone is authorized to remove these abandoned crab traps from within the closed areas. All traps removed shall be transported to disposal sites designated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. No person removing traps from the designated closed areas shall retain these traps outside of the closed areas.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:332(M).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 29: ____:

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the family and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule to Martin Bourgeois, Marine Fisheries Programs Manager, Marine Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Friday, October 3, 2003.

In accordance with Act No. 1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries / Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent. This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

2003

Recommendations for the Fall Shrimp Season in Inside Waters

~~For Zones Shrimp Management Zones 2 + 3~~

~~Based upon average white shrimp size~~

~~Based upon early white shrimp populations found~~

- Based upon average white shrimp size - although unlike recent years multiple size modes ~~do~~ within the population are present.
- Based upon ~~past~~ high predicted high tidal ranges associated with the full moon on Aug 12
- Combined with the relatively short length of the 2003 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season in Zone 2
- The Dept recommends opening the fall inshore shrimp seasons in Zones 2 + 3 on ~~Monday~~ as soon as possible. Administrative procedures provide that the public receive a minimum 72 H notice.
- In addition, provisions in statute prohibit the Commission from opening a season on a Sunday.
- Therefore the Dept recommends opening Shrimp Management Zones 2 + 3 at official sunrise Monday Aug and closing both Zones ~~on DEC~~ at official sunset DEC 16.
- The Dept also recommends opening Shrimp Management Zone 1 at official sunrise Monday Aug 18 and closing Zone 1 at official sunset Dec 31.
- The D/E before you would also authorize the Secretary to change the closing dates if biological ~~and~~ or technical indicate the need to do so
If EDF problems develop
close or reopen all or parts of outside waters waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found.

Media Reminder

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 1 WORK WEEK 31 BY YEAR

2

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2002	2001	2000	2003	1999
BROWN SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	20.20	10.22	18.97	9.20	11.57
BOT SALINITY	21.07	10.65	19.25	9.72	11.57
TOP TEMP.	30.22	30.30	28.67	30.85	33.27
BOT TEMP.	30.45	29.72	28.42	29.90	32.05
CATCH	2	35	45	12	2
C/E	0.50	8.80	11.30	3.00	0.50
AVG. SIZE	77.50	113.93	91.83	93.75	80.00
MIN. SIZE	77.50	67.50	52.50	77.50	52.50
MAX. SIZE	77.50	157.50	147.50	122.50	107.50
WHITE SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	20.20	10.22	18.97	9.20	11.57
BOT SALINITY	21.07	10.65	19.25	9.72	11.57
TOP TEMP.	30.22	30.30	28.67	30.85	33.27
BOT TEMP.	30.45	29.72	28.42	29.90	32.05
CATCH	666	4	29	132	45
C/E	166.50	1.00	7.30	33.00	11.30
AVG. SIZE	70.23	102.50	80.60	79.87	58.83
MIN. SIZE	22.50	92.50	52.50	47.50	27.50
MAX. SIZE	167.50	117.50	107.50	137.50	102.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 2 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT ..
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	6.75	9.52	8.42	15.82	8.26
	BOT SALINITY	6.77	9.72	8.70	16.90	9.02
	TOP TEMP.	29.32	31.17	28.90	29.60	30.34
	BOT TEMP.	29.17	30.82	28.60	29.57	30.18
	CATCH	10	3	14	2	180
	C/E	2.50	0.80	3.50	0.50	45.00
	AVG. SIZE	112.00	82.50	95.71	115.00	103.25
	MIN. SIZE	57.50	52.50	77.50	102.50	47.50
	MAX. SIZE	142.50	112.50	132.50	127.50	137.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	6.75	9.52	8.42	15.82	8.26
	BOT SALINITY	6.77	9.72	8.70	16.90	9.02
	TOP TEMP.	29.32	31.17	28.90	29.60	30.34
	BOT TEMP.	29.17	30.82	28.60	29.57	30.18
	CATCH	37	25	2	5	19
	C/E	9.30	6.30	0.50	1.30	4.80
	AVG. SIZE	82.23	88.90	130.00	81.50	73.55
	MIN. SIZE	42.50	52.50	122.50	67.50	37.50
	MAX. SIZE	142.50	122.50	137.50	92.50	92.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 2 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

2

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR: 6' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	11	11	11	11	11
TOP SALINITY	1.96	4.48	3.17	5.76	2.97
BOT SALINITY	.	4.30	3.17	.	2.67
TOP TEMP.	29.71	31.04	28.11	30.70	30.28
BOT TEMP.	.	29.10	28.11	.	30.26
CATCH	3	1	34	3	5
C/E	0.30	0.10	3.10	0.30	0.50
AVG. SIZE	112.50	102.50	93.38	107.50	102.50
MIN. SIZE	107.50	102.50	47.50	102.50	92.50
MAX. SIZE	117.50	102.50	117.50	117.50	107.50
WHITE SHRIMP	11	11	11	11	11
TOP SALINITY	1.96	4.48	3.17	5.76	2.97
BOT SALINITY	.	4.30	3.17	.	2.67
TOP TEMP.	29.71	31.04	28.11	30.70	30.28
BOT TEMP.	.	29.10	28.11	.	30.26
CATCH	63	27	14	11	24
C/E	5.70	2.50	1.30	1.00	2.20
AVG. SIZE	76.55	78.80	74.64	88.41	71.88
MIN. SIZE	52.50	37.50	47.50	72.50	7.50
MAX. SIZE	107.50	107.50	97.50	102.50	102.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 3 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

2

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

		2002	2001	2000	1999	2003
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	22.52	23.80	31.82	19.37	21.30
	BOT SALINITY	23.40	23.82	32.02	19.45	23.90
	TOP TEMP.	31.70	28.95	28.87	28.60	28.00
	BOT TEMP.	31.67	29.00	28.52	28.60	27.95
	CATCH	34	15	9	20	162
	C/E	8.50	3.80	2.30	5.00	40.50
	AVG. SIZE	105.59	108.17	86.94	91.25	92.16
	MIN. SIZE	82.50	82.50	72.50	42.50	47.50
	MAX. SIZE	122.50	122.50	102.50	132.50	147.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	22.52	23.80	31.82	19.37	21.30
	BOT SALINITY	23.40	23.82	32.02	19.45	23.90
	TOP TEMP.	31.70	28.95	28.87	28.60	28.00
	BOT TEMP.	31.67	29.00	28.52	28.60	27.95
	CATCH	3	6	.	1	86
	C/E	0.80	1.50	0.00	0.30	21.50
	AVG. SIZE	129.17	139.17	.	67.50	76.98
	MIN. SIZE	122.50	132.50	.	67.50	32.50
	MAX. SIZE	137.50	147.50	.	67.50	147.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 4 WORK WEEK 29 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	14.55	11.22	16.75	20.92
	BOT SALINITY	14.55	11.22	16.75	20.92
	TOP TEMP.	27.95	29.95	30.00	30.30
	BOT TEMP.	27.95	29.95	30.00	30.30
	CATCH	49	30	58	71
	C/E	12.30	7.50	14.50	17.80
	AVG. SIZE	77.50	105.17	82.59	87.22
	MIN. SIZE	37.50	57.50	37.50	47.50
	MAX. SIZE	122.50	127.50	127.50	112.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	14.55	11.22	16.75	20.92
	BOT SALINITY	14.55	11.22	16.75	20.92
	TOP TEMP.	27.95	29.95	30.00	30.30
	BOT TEMP.	27.95	29.95	30.00	30.30
	CATCH	445	43	55	294
	C/E	111.30	10.80	13.80	73.50
	AVG. SIZE	83.22	109.94	100.68	87.64
	MIN. SIZE	37.50	47.50	37.50	47.50
	MAX. SIZE	152.50	147.50	142.50	147.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 4 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT ..
GEAR=16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	10.40	17.20	20.50	20.77	15.90
BOT SALINITY	10.40	17.20	20.50	20.77	15.90
TOP TEMP.	28.60	30.75	29.97	27.17	29.90
BOT TEMP.	28.60	30.75	29.97	27.17	29.90
CATCH	9	66	59	9	64
C/E	2.30	16.50	14.80	2.30	16.00
AVG. SIZE	75.83	98.48	90.38	72.50	82.74
MIN. SIZE	47.50	67.50	47.50	57.50	37.50
MAX. SIZE	92.50	127.50	132.50	87.50	122.50
WHITE SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	10.40	17.20	20.50	20.77	15.90
BOT SALINITY	10.40	17.20	20.50	20.77	15.90
TOP TEMP.	28.60	30.75	29.97	27.17	29.90
BOT TEMP.	28.60	30.75	29.97	27.17	29.90
CATCH	54	61	98	204	131
C/E	13.50	15.30	24.50	51.00	32.80
AVG. SIZE	87.22	93.57	111.30	82.64	80.25
MIN. SIZE	32.50	32.50	77.50	32.50	32.50
MAX. SIZE	142.50	142.50	157.50	157.50	127.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 4 WORK WEEK 31 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	
	TOP SALINITY	13.30	16.65	18.57	25.42	21.02
	BOT SALINITY	13.30	.	18.57	25.42	21.02
	TOP TEMP.	31.02	30.62	29.45	28.70	30.57
	BOT TEMP.	31.02	.	29.45	28.70	30.57
	CATCH	3	33	4	2	32
	C/E	0.80	8.30	1.00	0.50	8.00
	AVG. SIZE	95.83	95.68	101.25	77.50	85.63
	MIN. SIZE	92.50	47.50	72.50	72.50	47.50
	MAX. SIZE	97.50	127.50	122.50	82.50	157.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	13.30	16.65	18.57	25.42	21.02
	BOT SALINITY	13.30	.	18.57	25.42	21.02
	TOP TEMP.	31.02	30.62	29.45	28.70	30.57
	BOT TEMP.	31.02	.	29.45	28.70	30.57
	CATCH	91	35	57	598	140
	C/E	22.80	8.80	14.30	149.50	35.00
	AVG. SIZE	94.43	115.93	120.13	77.90	91.30
	MIN. SIZE	42.50	27.50	87.50	42.50	32.50
	MAX. SIZE	147.50	157.50	157.50	147.50	132.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 5 WORK WEEK 29 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	7.57	6.80	5.32	9.30	8.52
BOT SALINITY	7.57	6.80	.	.	.
TOP TEMP.	27.85	30.70	31.12	30.00	27.97
BOT TEMP.	27.85	30.70	.	.	.
CATCH	6	50	10	18	7
C/E	1.50	12.50	2.50	4.50	1.80
AVG. SIZE	59.17	86.60	89.50	82.50	91.79
MIN. SIZE	27.50	37.50	47.50	32.50	82.50
MAX. SIZE	92.50	127.50	117.50	117.50	97.50
WHITE SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	7.57	6.80	5.32	9.30	8.52
BOT SALINITY	7.57	6.80	.	.	.
TOP TEMP.	27.85	30.70	31.12	30.00	27.97
BOT TEMP.	27.85	30.70	.	.	.
CATCH	117	63	111	205	45
C/E	29.30	15.80	27.80	51.30	11.30
AVG. SIZE	93.64	92.50	95.97	87.48	88.50
MIN. SIZE	32.50	47.50	42.50	32.50	37.50
MAX. SIZE	137.50	142.50	132.50	137.50	117.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 5 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000
BROWN SHRIMP				
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	3.50	7.90	7.62	9.12
BOT SALINITY	3.50	7.90	.	.
TOP TEMP.	29.02	32.35	30.70	28.15
BOT TEMP.	29.02	32.35	.	.
CATCH	18	33	8	16
C/E	4.50	8.30	2.00	4.00
AVG. SIZE	62.50	92.95	85.00	62.19
MIN. SIZE	27.50	27.50	57.50	32.50
MAX. SIZE	122.50	132.50	107.50	77.50
WHITE SHRIMP				
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	3.50	7.90	7.62	9.12
BOT SALINITY	3.50	7.90	.	.
TOP TEMP.	29.02	32.35	30.70	28.15
BOT TEMP.	29.02	32.35	.	.
CATCH	104	22	11	103
C/E	26.00	5.50	2.80	25.80
AVG. SIZE	83.65	115.91	100.23	85.70
MIN. SIZE	32.50	57.50	87.50	32.50
MAX. SIZE	142.50	142.50	107.50	142.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 5 WORK WEEK 31 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	4.10	6.50	7.95	11.95	2.00
BOT SALINITY	4.10	6.50	.	.	.
TOP TEMP.	31.20	30.42	32.30	27.30	32.22
BOT TEMP.	31.20	30.42	.	.	.
CATCH	3	24	6	4	2
C/E	0.80	6.00	1.50	1.00	0.50
AVG. SIZE	90.83	98.96	96.67	61.25	67.50
MIN. SIZE	62.50	77.50	87.50	52.50	47.50
MAX. SIZE	112.50	117.50	112.50	77.50	87.50
WHITE SHRIMP					
SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
TOP SALINITY	4.10	6.50	7.95	11.95	2.00
BOT SALINITY	4.10	6.50	.	.	.
TOP TEMP.	31.20	30.42	32.30	27.30	32.22
BOT TEMP.	31.20	30.42	.	.	.
CATCH	39	37	54	360	3
C/E	9.80	9.30	13.50	90.00	0.80
AVG. SIZE	114.55	113.04	113.89	98.18	112.50
MIN. SIZE	67.50	57.50	87.50	32.50	107.50
MAX. SIZE	137.50	137.50	147.50	132.50	122.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 5 WORK WEEK 32 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS ,

		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	4.42	7.85	12.60	11.75	7.52
	BOT SALINITY	4.42	7.85	.	.	.
	TOP TEMP.	30.70	29.70	27.67	31.50	29.02
	BOT TEMP.	30.70	29.70	.	.	.
	CATCH	3	36	1	1	3
	C/E	0.80	9.00	0.30	0.30	0.80
	AVG. SIZE	70.83	95.97	97.50	72.50	82.50
	MIN. SIZE	67.50	52.50	97.50	72.50	67.50
	MAX. SIZE	77.50	117.50	97.50	72.50	92.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	4	4	4	4	4
	TOP SALINITY	4.42	7.85	12.60	11.75	7.52
	BOT SALINITY	4.42	7.85	.	.	.
	TOP TEMP.	30.70	29.70	27.67	31.50	29.02
	BOT TEMP.	30.70	29.70	.	.	.
	CATCH	65	25	13	145	37
	C/E	16.30	6.30	3.30	36.30	9.30
	AVG. SIZE	114.96	123.10	109.42	95.30	104.53
	MIN. SIZE	37.50	52.50	72.50	42.50	82.50
	MAX. SIZE	137.50	147.50	137.50	137.50	127.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 6 WORK WEEK 29 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	
	TOP SALINITY	1.24	1.54	3.54	20.20	1.36
	BOT SALINITY	1.30	1.56	4.08	21.22	1.42
	TOP TEMP.	29.68	29.48	30.20	30.40	28.76
	BOT TEMP.	29.20	29.66	30.06	30.26	28.64
	CATCH	46	58	625	577	329
	C/E	9.20	11.60	125.00	115.40	65.80
	AVG. SIZE	64.35	81.81	72.10	75.61	70.21
	MIN. SIZE	32.50	32.50	37.50	37.50	42.50
	MAX. SIZE	97.50	112.50	112.50	107.50	92.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	
	TOP SALINITY	1.24	1.54	3.54	20.20	1.36
	BOT SALINITY	1.30	1.56	4.08	21.22	1.42
	TOP TEMP.	29.68	29.48	30.20	30.40	28.76
	BOT TEMP.	29.20	29.66	30.06	30.26	28.64
	CATCH	188	120	327	125	462
	C/E	37.60	24.00	65.40	25.00	92.40
	AVG. SIZE	56.51	67.33	86.25	74.82	71.81
	MIN. SIZE	27.50	32.50	52.50	42.50	42.50
	MAX. SIZE	122.50	127.50	122.50	147.50	102.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 6 WORK WEEK 29 BY YEAR

2

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= OFFSHORE STATE WATERS

		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	3	6	.	3	3
	TOP SALINITY	1.43	10.55	.	31.07	2.37
	BOT SALINITY	1.70	11.12	.	31.17	2.87
	TOP TEMP.	29.70	30.65	.	30.30	29.73
	BOT TEMP.	29.20	30.88	.	30.47	29.50
	CATCH	19	78	.	690	132
	C/E	6.30	13.00	.	230.00	44.00
	AVG. SIZE	65.13	68.72	.	74.81	71.97
	MIN. SIZE	27.50	27.50	.	42.50	42.50
	MAX. SIZE	92.50	117.50	.	97.50	92.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	3	6	.	3	3
	TOP SALINITY	1.43	10.55	.	31.07	2.37
	BOT SALINITY	1.70	11.12	.	31.17	2.87
	TOP TEMP.	29.70	30.65	.	30.30	29.73
	BOT TEMP.	29.20	30.88	.	30.47	29.50
	CATCH	159	23	.	67	81
	C/E	63.00	3.80	.	22.30	27.00
	AVG. SIZE	48.38	77.07	.	82.13	74.10
	MIN. SIZE	27.50	32.50	.	47.50	42.50
	MAX. SIZE	122.50	157.50	.	162.50	107.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 6 WORK WEEK 30 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	5
	TOP SALINITY	8.20	2.22	4.28	20.00	5.48
	BOT SALINITY	9.92	2.98	4.54	22.18	5.52
	TOP TEMP.	29.04	30.42	30.40	28.74	30.38
	BOT TEMP.	29.18	30.70	30.60	28.94	29.98
	CATCH	274	54	105	220	144
	C/E	54.80	10.80	21.00	44.00	28.80
	AVG. SIZE	71.21	91.20	83.55	66.82	74.72
	MIN. SIZE	42.50	42.50	37.50	37.50	52.50
	MAX. SIZE	102.50	122.50	132.50	117.50	107.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	5
	TOP SALINITY	8.20	2.22	4.28	20.00	5.48
	BOT SALINITY	9.92	2.98	4.54	22.18	5.52
	TOP TEMP.	29.04	30.42	30.40	28.74	30.38
	BOT TEMP.	29.18	30.70	30.60	28.94	29.98
	CATCH	301	53	203	128	915
	C/E	60.20	10.60	40.60	25.60	183.00
	AVG. SIZE	81.78	96.84	102.90	84.49	86.84
	MIN. SIZE	32.50	32.50	37.50	47.50	62.50
	MAX. SIZE	142.50	142.50	162.50	147.50	127.50

SHRIMP PROGRAM WEEKLY SUMMARY
FOR AREA 6 WORK WEEK 31 BY YEAR

1

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION SHRIMP/GROUNDFISH MONITORING,
SUBPROJECT .,
GEAR= 16' flat otter trawl,
AND SHORE= INSHORE STATE WATERS

		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
BROWN SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	5
	TOP SALINITY	7.98	2.04	3.62	18.02	6.90
	BOT SALINITY	8.60	2.38	3.50	18.22	15.20
	TOP TEMP.	30.56	30.48	29.68	28.02	31.90
	BOT TEMP.	30.36	30.34	29.86	28.30	31.40
	CATCH	111	32	318	88	95
	C/E	22.20	6.40	63.60	17.60	19.00
	AVG. SIZE	56.78	70.94	75.73	66.02	72.61
	MIN. SIZE	22.50	37.50	27.50	42.50	52.50
	MAX. SIZE	102.50	112.50	127.50	97.50	82.50
WHITE SHRIMP	SAMPLES	5	5	5	5	5
	TOP SALINITY	7.98	2.04	3.62	18.02	6.90
	BOT SALINITY	8.60	2.38	3.50	18.22	15.20
	TOP TEMP.	30.56	30.48	29.68	28.02	31.90
	BOT TEMP.	30.36	30.34	29.86	28.30	31.40
	CATCH	124	126	583	124	342
	C/E	24.80	25.20	116.60	24.80	68.40
	AVG. SIZE	83.10	103.69	91.48	79.64	88.17
	MIN. SIZE	32.50	42.50	32.50	32.50	52.50
	MAX. SIZE	147.50	177.50	147.50	147.50	142.50

Bourgeois, Martin

From: Cook, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 4:31 PM
To: Bourgeois, Martin
Subject: CSA6 Shrimp update/ww32

Marty,

FYI. ww32 / 16' trawl
CPUE WHT = 38.0
AVG SIZE WHT = 84.8mm

CPUE

	<u>2003</u>	<u>5yr</u>	<u>10yr</u>
ww30	60.2	64.0	74.0
ww31	25.8	58.8	77.7
ww32	38.0	150.4	103.3

AVG SIZE

ww30	81.8	88.1	80.9
ww31	79.4	90.6	86.1
ww32	84.8	97.1	95.5

Slight increase in CPUE. System hydrologic conditions stabilizing after salinity spike seen in ww30. Very little growth. Graph of length/freq looks very similar over last several weeks. Still see 2 distinct modes.



CSA 6 Fall 2003
Shrimp Season ...

To: Bourgeois, Martin
Subject: CSA 6 Fall 2003 Shrimp Season Recommendation
This is in response to your request for a Fall 2003 shrimp season recommendation.

The Vermilion/Atchafalaya Complex has experienced relatively high and late Atchafalaya River flow during June and early July. As a result, salinity levels throughout the system have been extremely low (<1 ppt in many areas) during this period with associated high turbidity. Water temperature has been slightly below the long-term average (10 yr.).

The passage of a late season cold front during ww30 brought a drastic change in conditions in Vermilion Bay. North winds followed by a switch to the west caused a drastic increase in salinity, with a change of 20 ppt seen over a 48 hour period in the central portion of Vermilion Bay. The average salinity for 16' inshore samples rose from 1.3 ppt in ww29 to 9.1 ppt for ww30.

White shrimp CPUE in 16' trawls for ww30 was 60.2 (20% below 10 yr. average of 75.5) while average size was 81.7mm (slightly above 10 yr. average of 80.9mm). Sizes ranged from group 6 to group 28. A histogram of length/frequencies show 2 distinct modes (see **CSA6WHTww302003**).



csa6whtww30,03.p
pt

Considerations for 2003 Fall recommendation:

- A look at historical data shows that CPUE and average size for white shrimp usually peaks in CSA 6 during ww32, which is prior to traditional Fall openings (over the last 22 years, 34% of the Fall openings have been in ww33 while 64% fell in ww34).. It is possible to look for increase/decrease in CPUE from ww32 to ww33 for those openings that took place in ww34. Of the 14 openings starting in ww34, a decrease in CPUE was noted in 9 years, an increase in 3 years, and NDA for 2 years (see table 1.).

Table 1.

YEARS WITH WW-34 OPENING			
YEAR	CPUE - WW 32	CPUE - WW 33	DECREASE/INCREASE
2002	57.4	19.6	DECREASE
2000	199.6	25.0	DECREASE
1997	26.8	69.6	INCREASE
1996	39.6	92.6	INCREASE
1995	71.8	53.0	DECREASE
1992	29.0	11.0	DECREASE
1991	18.0	NDA	NDA
1990	174.8	37.2	DECREASE
1989	18.8	41.8	INCREASE
1986	218.7	85.0	DECREASE
1985	70.5	57.3	DECREASE
1984	NDA		NDA
1982	61.2	11.6	DECREASE
1981	60.6	35.0	DECREASE

- The new moon falls on August 11 with associated tides of high amplitude prior to that date
- If a growth rate of 10mm/week is assumed (and all shrimp stay in the system with no

additional recruitment) white shrimp will reach and average size of 89 mm. (100 count) on July 30, 2003..

- Threat of a major storm event increases with time.

Based on the above mentioned considerations, I recommend that the Fall 2003 inshore shrimp season is CSA 6 open as soon as possible following the August 6 Commission meeting.

Henry Mouton

From: Bowman, Philip [Bowman_PE@wlf.state.la.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 11:14 AM
To: 'Henry Mouton'
Subject: RE: White Lake Lottery Hunts for Teal Season

Our recommendation will be:

WEST ZONE
15 7
Nov. 8 - Nov. 30 (23 days)
20 25
Dec. 13 - Jan. 18 (37 days)

EAST ZONE 7
22 27
Nov. 15 - Nov. 30 (16 days)
Dec. 13 - Jan. 25 (44 days)

The youth weekend would be the weekend before the first split in each zone. This framework would allow us to hunt the conservation order for light geese for the first 12 days in December. The regular light geese and white-fronted geese season would open on Nov. 1 and split with the duck season and extend through Feb. 6 where we would pick up with the conservation order for light geese which would extend through March 7.

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry Mouton [mailto:henrymouton@star-service.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 9:40 AM
To: Bowman, Philip
Subject: RE: White Lake Lotter Hunts for Teal Season

what dates to Open and Close the Seasons.

Henry

-----Original Message-----

From: Bowman, Philip [mailto:Bowman_PE@wlf.state.la.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 10:34 AM
To: 'Henry Mouton'
Subject: RE: White Lake Lotter Hunts for Teal Season

The framework is 60 days and 6 ducks with the exception of pintails and canvasbacks. For pintails and canvasbacks there will be a 30 day season with a one bird per day limit. We are recommending that we set the pintail season for the first 30 days and the canvasbacks the last 30 days of the season.

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry Mouton [mailto:henrymouton@star-service.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 9:29 AM
To: Bowman, Philip
Subject: RE: White Lake Lotter Hunts for Teal Season

do we have the Framework for Duck Season yet?

I think what he was talking about is that you have to mail it in instead of being able to Register on the Site and pay for it with a Credit Card.

Henry

-----Original Message-----

From: Bowman, Philip [mailto:Bowman_PE@wlf.state.la.us]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 10:20 AM
To: 'Henry Mouton'

W-201E

4-8-3J

5-15- -BT END LATE

56
~~24~~
25
19

E-22-NOV- DEC 7th 16 DAS

BALANCE-

DEC 13- JAN 25th